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Pages 18 & 19

Y FRO GYMRAEG - YN FFW AC YN FFYNNU
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SEE OUR 5-PAGE FEATURE STARTING ON PAGE 21

The rockabilly fair comes to Porthcawl

Page 6

Local man jailed for dangerous driving offences

TWO days after being charged with dangerous driving, a man unlawfully took his brother's motor cycle, lost control of it on a blind bend, and collided with a car in which there were a number of children, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

David Chinnock (24) of The Avenue, Pontycoymmer, admitted charges of dangerous driving,

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

careless driving, aggravated vehicle taking and driving without insurance.

He was jailed for eight months, disqualified from driving for 18 months, and ordered to take the extended test.

Prosecutor David Wooler said Hayley Lenehan, a hospital worker, was driving near McArthur Glen, when she was aware of a Mazda vehicle coming up fast behind

her. It hit her Renault Clio and she stopped. She got out and spoke to the driver, Chinnock, who indicated he didn't have any insurance.

He then accelerated his vehicle towards her, making a screeching sound, struck her thigh and made off.

For several days, she was forced to take painkillers and has become nervous about driving. She also lost her voice.

Mr Wooler said the defendant admitted he was the driver who hadn't been insured. He also admitted he had been drinking.

Two days after being charged with dangerous driving, he took his brother's 400cc motorcycle and on the A4064, lost control on a blind bend and hit a car containing children.

The vehicle's bumper was damaged

and when approached by the driver, Chinnock gave a false name.

The court heard he had a previous conviction for possessing mephadrone.

His counsel, Richard Ace, said: "He is hardworking and has a stable family background. He concedes that he is at risk of a custodial sentence.

"Thankfully," he said, "the injury to the first driver was not serious and in the second incident, he injured himself."

"There is a great degree of remorse," said Mr Ace.

Judge Richard Twomlow said the first driver had described herself as being "an emotional wreck" the day after she was struck. And, he said,

she had lost her voice because of stress.

Charity quiz at The Swan raised £500 for Scope



On Sunday, September 21, I had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for the sum of £500 in aid of Scope, a charity for disabled people, to John Rees – who added a further £520 by completing the Iron Man challenge in Tenby.

The money has been raised from a Sunday evening quiz which I hosted at The Swan Inn, Nottage over the last few weeks.

Since January 2013 the quiz has made £5,300 for 15 different charities, an outstanding amount to help worthy causes.

The money has been raised by donations of 10p for an incorrect answer and various

other ways of collecting money.

I would like to thank all who participated in the quiz and also all the volunteers: my husband, Andrew, Kay and David Boswell, and Marion and Clive Jones, who collected the money, dealt out raffle tickets for correct answers and counted funds collected over the weeks.

Richard 'Dickie' Harris also contributed by selling the football card to enhance money raised for the cause.

Special thanks also go to Eddie Edwards and Nigel Strong, who donated mouthwatering vegetables, raising £113.70 between them. A 'Guess the Weight of the Cabbage' competition also raised a further £71, a fun activity started by Cliff Hopkins. Thanks also go

to Dave and Anne Prosser for their delicious home-made jam adding a further £7 to the fund.

On Sunday, August 31 after the quiz, Tracey Walsley completed the Ice Bucket Challenge outside the Swan Inn. In all, she raised £85.50 through sponsorship towards the charity, an amazing amount to help the cause once more.

The quiz will continue at The Swan Inn starting at 6pm every Sunday with the new charity Action for Children. All are welcome to participate, with no written pages. Come along and join in the fun at any time during the evening.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

The Co-Operative Pharmacy – **Tyncoed Surgery, Merfield Close, Sarn** – New non-illuminated external signage to new extension to surgery. Mitchells and Butlers – **The Harvester Restaurant, Designer Outlet Village, The Derwen, Bridgend** – Three internally illuminated post signs, two internally illuminated fascia signs, one non-illuminated sign.

Mr M Standen – **Land adjacent Le Raj Restaurant, Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly** – Temporary canvas advertising banner.

Mr Warren Videan – **44 Commercial Street, Maesteg** – Retain use of round floor as shop and flat; new ground floor and basement shop fronts; windows and external wall insulation. AROC – **Land at Nantyffyllon RFC, Blosse Street, Maesteg** – Residential development for 36 houses and retain existing house at 62A Picton Street.

Mr John Crocker – **Windrush, Ton Kenfig, Bridgend** – Build detached family house of similar size of existing 'Windrush'.

HD Ltd UK – **JP Board and Co Ltd, 30/32 Nolton Street, Bridgend** – Demolish buildings and change use from car dealership, MoT service and repairs garage to temporary car park.

Dr A White – **28 Iron Way, Tondu** – Detached single storey hobby room to side of house and retention of the raised height of the side fence (amended).

Threadneedle Property Investment – **Former Bridgend Creamery, Caradog Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – Demolish all buildings on site including light industrial processing unit, warehousing and office

building. Mr Daniel Pucella – 11 Kimberley Court, Brackla – Proposed boundary wall with fencing in between pillars.

Valleys to Coast Housing – **1-19 Tremain Road, Bridgend** – Install wooden fencing around flats, new hardstanding to site container, renew external tarmac and install pathway. Biotec Services International Ltd – **Unit 2010 and 2130 Central Park, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – External plant and air conditioning unit to side of unit 2010 and rear of unit 2130 and external windows to front of unit 2130.

Mr and Mrs Alan and Anne Roberts Jones – **34 Church View, Laleston** – Proposed first floor extension to provide en-suite facilities.

Mr Michael Forward – **11 Heol Maendy, Sarn** – Inclusion of grass verge into curtilage with boundary wall and driveway.

Mr Alan Page – **8 The Whimbrels, Porthcawl** – Erection of two storey side extension.

Mr Mike Punter – **59 Nolton Street (vacant unit), Bridgend** – Replacement shop front.

Mr G Purser – **The White Lion, Bedford Road, Cefn Cribwrw** – Change of use from former public house to two storey dwelling. HSBC Bank Plc – **13 Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – Existing external ATM to be replaced with new ATM. Valleys to Coast Housing – **Land at Heol Cae Defaid, Maesteg** – Non-material amendment of application P/11/575/FUL.

LETTERS EXTRA

'Inquiry needed on Welsh NHS'

THE National Health Service in Wales has been the subject of many letters on these pages in recent months and years, but never has it faced a starker warning than that delivered by the British Medical Association just a few days ago.

The organisation that represents 7,000 doctors has called for an independent inquiry into the Welsh Health Service and predicted 'meltdown' if swift action isn't taken.

The BMA joins a senior Labour MP, a patient's watchdog, the college of emergency medicine, and the man who conducted England's recent NHS inquiry, in calling for similar action from the Labour Government in Wales.

Welsh Conservatives agree – but given the Welsh NHS is run by Labour you'd expect that, wouldn't you? The

truth is, this is not about political posturing or point scoring.

I have been calling for an NHS inquiry for 18 months and I'm willing to work with the other political parties to deliver it.

Just hours after the BMA's call, an investigation was announced following the death of a woman in an ambulance while it was queuing outside a hospital. My heartfelt thoughts go out to all those affected by that tragedy and I hope answers are quickly forthcoming.

The evidence is stacking up and it's more than clear that there are serious questions to answer over standards of care in the NHS.

An independent all-Wales inquiry would tackle those issues head on and safeguard our Health Service for future generations. Support for that continues to grow rapidly and I urge the Welsh Government to begin implementation.

Welsh Conservatives agree – but given the Welsh NHS is run by Labour you'd expect that, wouldn't you? The

Airport is proud of its Nato role

IWOULD like to thank Fiona Guthrie, whose letter regarding Cardiff Airport during Nato was published in The GEM on September 11. We are very pleased that all the planning ahead of Nato paid off and that disruption to passengers and people in the local community was minimised.

NATO was a hugely exciting project for our team. We are all very pleased that Wales, the cities of Cardiff and Newport, and Cardiff airport had the opportunity to showcase what we can all do on the world stage.

During Nato week, Cardiff airport dealt with 17 heads of state/government, 13 foreign ministers, 15 defence ministers, two heads of delegation, lots of military personnel and overseas media along with the accompanying 800 pieces of baggage (roughly 10 – 12 tonnes).

I couldn't be more proud of the teamwork displayed amongst our own staff and all of the different agencies involved in the operation, which ensured our day-to-day flight programme was unaffected and our customers were able to take their flights as normal.

Debra Barber. Managing Director, Cardiff Airport.

The business of the evening included details of the food show in Birmingham in November; forthcoming skittles evening; Ascot Day 2015; Violence Against Women campaign; health day in Pencoed; Operation Christmas Child Charity Shoebox appeal; quiz team entry for quiz night at Tide, Porthcawl; coffee morning in Williams Memorial Hall, and application to Lottery Fund to replace equipment for the WMH.

Members gave positive feedback regarding the recent Link Scavenger Hunt with afternoon tea held in Bryngarw Park and

Commissioner praises Porthcawl initiative for people with dementia

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team has visited a project in Porthcawl that is providing vital support to people from the area living with dementia, as well as those who are at risk of becoming lonely or isolated.

The commissioner's team visited Porthcawl Community Café, where they met and spoke with staff from Crossroads Care Bridgend and older people who attend a weekly lunch club.

While the initial plan was to provide the service for people living with dementia and their carers, Crossroads have opened up the service to everyone, with other locals, tourists and socially isolated older people now attending as well.

Around 20 older people come together each week for lunch and to play cards, while Crossroads staff also run a bric-a-brac stall outside the community cafe to raise extra funds for their work.

The commissioner, Sarah Rochira, said: "Crossroads Care's community cafe is a wonderful example of a dementia-supportive initiative providing an accessible environment for people with dementia to meet regularly and take part in social

activities that are both therapeutic and enjoyable.

"What makes this particular project even more impressive is the fact that it is has been made socially inclusive and it also provides a friendly environment for other older people who may otherwise be at risk of becoming lonely and isolated."

The visit to meet the group formed part of the Commissioner's Engagement Roadshow, which has met with thousands of older people during the past year.

For further details about the engagement roadshow, and to find out more about the work of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, visit www.olderpolewales.com.

Youth charity on look-out for new blood

KPC YOUTH, the community charity based in Pyle, KPC is also working hard with young people to replace the existing portakabin which is across the borough to near the end of its practical use.

"It has been a brilliant space for young people, but we are looking to replace it with a purpose-built building.

"KPC currently has a small committed board of trustees, and is seeking new members from our community to join the board, bring new skills and experience, and help us with our transformation from being a youth charity into a youth and community charity, and also to help take us through the process of developing our new building."

If you have relevant skills you feel you could bring, want to make a difference for the community and have some spare time, contact Alison on either 01656 749219 or email and the wider kpcyouth@hotmail.com

Full schedule lies ahead for Coychurch WI

SUE ELWORTHY, vice president, opened the recent Coychurch WI meeting by welcoming members following the summer recess, along with guests Joan Evans and Anne Randell.

The business of the evening included details of the food show in Birmingham in November; forthcoming skittles evening; Ascot Day 2015; Violence Against Women campaign; health day in Pencoed; Operation Christmas Child Charity Shoebox appeal; quiz team entry for quiz night at Tide, Porthcawl; coffee morning in Williams Memorial Hall, and application to Lottery Fund to replace equipment for the WMH.

Members gave positive feedback regarding the recent Link Scavenger Hunt with afternoon tea held in Bryngarw Park and

also, the annual summer outing to the Wye Valley.

Member Christine Jones was congratulated on being successful in the WI 2015 calendar photographic competition; her submission of the Watermill Public House, Ogmor-by-Sea will represent the month of June.

The 95th anniversary congratulation cards received recently were displayed for members to peruse.

A thank you card was read received from Mary Evans, following the sad demise of her husband John.

The guest speaker Graham Watkins, a classically trained musician and retired music teacher issued members with maps depicting 24 countries that illustrated his topic 'Music from Around the World'.

The music commenced with Wales and Mr Watkins was both very knowledgeable and entertaining.

For further information on forthcoming events contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232.

The next meeting will take place on October 7 at 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall.

The topic of guest speaker Rachel Brennan will be 'My Life as a Bluebell Dancer'.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL OCTOBER 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
25 Thur	07.51	9.8	20.04	9.9
26 Fri	08.23	9.8	20.35	9.8
27 Sat	08.55	9.7	21.09	9.6
28 Sun	09.29	9.5	21.44	9.4
29 Mon	10.03	9.2	22.18	9.0
30 Tues	10.43	8.8	23.01	8.5
01 Wed	11.32	8.4	23.57	8.2
02 Thur			12.37	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Quiz League posers

HERE are this week's posers:

1. Which battle occurred on April 16, 1746 with the Duke of Cumberland crushing the Jacobite rebellion?

2. In which year of the 1990s did the following occur – Nelson Mandela is elected President of South Africa, the US invade Haiti, Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty and Russia invade Chechnya?

3. At the 1996 Open at Lytham which American

RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:

4. Act of God.

5. Cutloden.

3. Tiger Woods.

Choir's annual concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir will hold its annual concert at St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend at 7pm on Friday, October 10.

Appearing with the choir are soprano Jessica Robinson and duettists Rhianon Williams-Hale and Stephanie Bailey, with organist Scott Williams.

He will play Leon Boellmann's Suite Gothicue, Introduction and Toccata, 1st and 4th movements. Tickets (£5) can be purchased from Porters Estate Agents, Nolton Street; the News Shop, Dunraven Place or from choir secretary, Gareth Reese on 07773 170373.



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Bridgend Lions keep their focus on charity work

WORLDWIDE help and assistance for blind and partially-sighted people has been a prime objective of Lions International since the club was established in the USA in the 1920s.

Nearly 100 years on, it is a mission that continues as the need for help remains. To maintain public awareness it is marked by a World Sight Day, held annually in October.

Bridgend Lions Club, well known for its local charity fundraising work, is also proud to play its part in the international initiative.

In partnership with local opticians and the eye clinic at the Princess of Wales Hospital, the



Janine Humphreys and staff receive their certificate.

club collects and recycles old and unused spectacles. Hundreds of pairs of specs are sent monthly by them to a central Lions' workshop in Essex, where they are sorted and sent on for use in developing

countries. In particular, the club has received many thousands of specs from the Optic Shop, Bridgend and as a token of their appreciation, they presented the opticians' manager,

Janine Humphreys, and

their team with a framed certificate to thank them for their achievement.

John Craxton, Bridgend Lions' project co-ordinator, said that he was pleased to acknowledge the efforts of their busy staff in taking the time to participate in the Lions' global sight campaign.

He added: "The club will be delighted to receive old pairs of glasses from the general public who can drop them in the Lions specs bin at The Optic Shop in Nolton Street."

Breach of bail man sought

POLICE are keen to trace the whereabouts of Robert Turowski, who is wanted for breaching his bail.

Turowski, who is from the Bridgend area, has breached the terms of his bail connected to a European Arrest Warrant.

Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1400331068. Alternatively,

Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111, or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.



CAMPER VAN BLAZE NEAR PENCOED

This was the scene (above) last Sunday afternoon, around 6.30pm, when a camper van caught fire near Pencoed.

Photograph by MANDY THOMAS www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

Physic garden is top of the class!

COWBRIDGE Physic Garden has received the highest possible commendation in the 2014 RHS Britain in Bloom Awards.

The award was handed over to a group of volunteers from the garden at a ceremony in Usk on September 16.

The area in which the garden was highly praised in the community participation category reached a Level 5 award.

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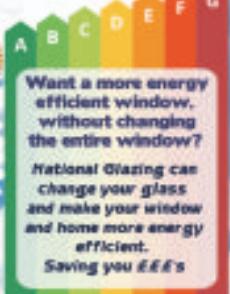
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Laurie Brophy – someone who opens up new horizons for the over-60s

by CAROLINE SARLL

If there is anyone out there who can match the astonishing achievements of Laurence Brophy, The GEM would love to hear about it. In the meantime, Caroline Sarll met the amazing 82-year-old adventurer – and found that his life story was just as surprising!

IT can be no coincidence that Laurie Brophy's name rhymes with trophy. The 82-year-old grandfather and former languages teacher from Pencoed arrives at my house, all trainers and trackies, with a rucksack full of medals and mementoes from almost 20 years of literal globe-trotting ("though sometimes it's turned into a tired plod").

It is an arsenal to be proud of, hard (and often painfully) won during the toughest of challenges, embarked on at the relatively ripe age of 67 and likely to defeat someone 50 years his junior. Three deserts conquered out of the Four Deserts Race (each 250k), described by Time magazine as "the ultimate test in human endurance": Gobi (2003), Sahara, (2005), Atacama (twice, 2009/2011).

"Those are the windy, hot and dry ones. I don't fancy the fourth, Antarctica. Too cold for me".

To those epic crossings, he casually adds a few more desert runs: the Moroccan Marathon des Sables, "the toughest footrace on earth" (twice, 1999 and 2002) and the Jordan Desert Cup (2002).

Three London marathons (one dressed as a badger), countless other UK marathons (Cardiff, of course), numerous 10k runs ("Seven times in Swansea, 1997-2007).

Laurie has completed so many treks that, despite his razor-sharp mind, keeping a tally is tough and he has to email me a chronological list when he gets home (computer savvy, as well as prodigiously fit: wow). When he includes the Bornem Death Hike in Belgium (2006, 64 miles in 24 hours), its ominous title underlines the seriousness of Laurie's achievements: only half who start make it to the finish and the 2010 event claimed one casualty.

LJ Brophy (it is me, or does that name not smack of distinction?), whippet-thin, white-haired and always wired for action, debunks the notion of the prototype armchair pensioner.

"I'm not an 'oldie' – that makes me furious. I am getting on, but that doesn't mean you can't keep active". Active yes, but multi-marathons? Laurie's



Laurie Brophy joins the other adventurers at the start of the Gobi Desert endurance race.



ABOVE: Laurie with his daughter, Kate in Atacama in Chile.

BETWEEN: Laurie has been a running coach for both the author's daughters, and is pictured with Madeleine.



retort: "Why not?" Earlier this week, to tie in with the autumn equinox, in a casual nod to pagan cycles, ("heralding a new phase spiritually – perhaps a time for reflection"), Laurie set himself another challenge, this time a little closer to home. "If you don't keep setting yourself goals, life is not worth living".

At 11am, after a bike, train and bus ride, he set off, alone, from Brecon, to complete the Taff Trail, at 55 miles, a piece of cake for this veteran adventurer. He completed the trail in 22 hours, 53 minutes, raising money, yet again, for local charity Y Boni and he finished in the early hours of Tuesday morning:

"I didn't sleep. I have done during other treks, often at the side of the road. I'm used to kipping under the stars".

In a week that has seen a major discovery in my own family – an Egyptian coffin lid was discovered in my grandfather Tiger Sarll's house (he was an adventurer and explorer) and was sold at auction for £12,000 – my attention has been focused on what makes the maverick personality: what makes an ordinary mortal push the boundaries, go for gold, even seek our danger?

Lanky and lithe – Laurie virtually skips up the six steps on our veranda – I push this modest, self-effacing, alarmingly fit octogenarian ("If I'm not walking, I'm cycling") further on the motivation behind his extraordinary achievements.

His early life is a revelation, encompassing naked schooling (really), canoeing solo to Italy and being mistaken for a spy by the French Army.

It's like securing an interview with Dr Livingstone, Chay Blyth and the fictional Tom Brown, all rolled into one.

Sitting ramrod straight on the sofa (he must have bones of iron and was told 11 years ago that he had the lung capacity of a man in his twenties), he recounts his story with gentle enthusiasm,

inadvertently shedding light on his exceptional drive and on the causes of his lifelong self-sufficiency and capacity for solitude, which his many marathons have required: "If you have a companion, you have to share decisions. I prefer my own company".

Born on February 10, 1932, in South Battersea, his father, a stonemason, died when he was just three, of pneumoconiosis. Having experienced such a loss myself, I know that the untimely death of a parent is key in the development of the classic 'carpe diem' personality.

Laurie and his mother then went to live with one of her married sisters in Birmingham. Raised during the Depression, money was scarce, but Laurie remembers his early childhood with fondness, saying that he was "happy and contented".

His mother, "a hard worker", made it her goal to provide well for Laurie and was never without a job. Laurie wonders if the financial assistance available to single mothers might have been one of the catalysts in the next stage of his development when, at the age of six, he was duly despatched to one of the first open air schools in the country, Hunter's Hill.

Instituted by the Quaker Cadbury family, these schools were designed to educate the city's "delicate" children whose schooling had suffered due to malnutrition, asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.

Laurie reflects wryly that he "doesn't recall being a sickly child", deducing that his attendance there as a boarder perhaps allowed his mother to work even more, without "worrying about me".

The classrooms were built with three sides constantly open to the fresh air, the latter deemed to be a panacea for all the ailments endured by the 120 boys ("four dormitories, 30 in each").

"In the winter, we wore corduroy

knickerbockers, changing our clothes once – and showering twice – weekly. In the summer, we only wore daps, an aertex shirt and shorts – no underpants – and were regularly told, by the all-female staff, to strip off and run around naked in the surrounding meadows".

...No question in those days of inappropriateness or potential allegations.

"We never gave it a second thought. Most of the teachers were all lovely and we developed close relationships with them all – they were, of course, *in loco parentis*. It was completely innocent and actually quite idyllic.

"It may well be where I got my love of exercise from. I won the high jump on sports day when I was 10, clearing almost four foot".

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)

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The question is – what makes Laurie run?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Laurie wasn't a fast runner – "even then endurance seemed to be more my thing". There were trees to climb, fields to explore and lessons held outside."

Swallows and Amazons and The Famous Five incarnate. No boarding school experience would be complete, however, without a hint of Roald Dahl gruesomeness.

"We had a supervisor called Miss Lickerish (seriously), who used to dispense tablets to all the pill takers.

"I clearly had some sort of anaemia, so was in the regular line-up. She made us swallow the pills in front of her before we sat down.

My medication should have been taken with a meal, and I was soon gripped with agonising stomach pains and ended up writhing around on the playground steps. No supper for me that night – and Miss Lickerish never asked me how I was".

Other recollections include the 'toilet issue', which resulted in tears soon after his arrival. "I started mid-term so missed the usual induction. I'd never used a toilet anywhere except my own home and thought there were no others in the whole world. I remember thinking I'd have to wait until the end of term before I could go".

Laurie smiles at this memory, but I sense there are depths not fully plumbed. A six-year-old, away from his mother, in a strange environment.

A trauma, or character-building? Add to this Nurse Barrett, whom Laurie remembers as "a bit of a terror" and the Blytonesque insouciance gives way to a less settling picture.

But Laurie remains adamant that it was a positive experience overall – and clearly a source of inspiration in his life. Hardship can also foster determination and greatness. It was also a period which established his nurturing side, a facet which he drew on during his teaching career and as a running coach in more recent years.

"I befriended a boy who wore callipers, as did many of the pupils. He'd had so many ops that he'd actually lost the power of speech. He was about four years older than I was, and it really impressed the teachers that I'd taken him under my wing. They presented me with a little silver medal in assembly for being caring and friendly".

I recall a medal Laurie had especially made for one of my daughters when he helped her with her running in Nottage Primary School (she now represents south Wales in the 800m, so thank you Laurie).

This is a man who, from his own experiences, values endeavour – and knows how vital it is to reward it. These small touches are often overlooked in our stretched-to-capacity state system. But they mean such a lot and provide the encouragement that can lead to outstanding success.

A modern day nomad he may be, but his avuncular mentoring and volunteering hints at a need for social interaction, despite his periods of isolation.

The outbreak of war brought a further change in young Laurie's life. Having returned to school on September 1, war was declared on the 3rd.

"We were given our own clothes back after an extra shower – and then told we'd be going home. They divided us up into 10 groups of a dozen children and we took the train to Birmingham.

"Then we walked to our respective homes. I was the last to be dropped off. Our group leader asked if the flats were where I lived – then off she went, without even looking back. My mother was out at work, so I had to sit on the steps, waiting for her to come home.

"Luckily, a woman saw me and took me into her flat – and gave me a banana. Due to the rationing that followed, I think that was the last banana I had for many years".

Those years that followed were lonely ones. After returning briefly to Hunter's Hill, Laurie was one of three who passed the Eleven Plus, taking him to King Edward's School for Boys. He returned to living with his mother, who was, by now, working in a munitions factory, making shells for guns.

She left early in the morning and Laurie had to get himself to school. He often had a shilling to spend at one of the then widespread British Restaurants, state-run, cheap eateries, to ensure everyone got a square meal.

"It was nine pence for a main course and three pence for a dessert. I took my own plate, so it was like an early takeaway, I suppose".

Ever the altruist, Laurie "shared the meal with the cat". It is a sobering picture of a young boy, trying to make his way in the world. "I was lonely, and had to become resourceful. I read a lot – my early memories are of the Rupert Bear annual, which probably fostered my love of rhyming couplets.

"I suppose you could say that I had to get to know myself pretty well and that I learned how to be totally self-sufficient." That, of course, became a vital survival tool in his future marathon missions.

Laurie left school at 16 "with little money, there was no hope then of any further education" – and ended up in a routine office job with the Esso Petroleum Company. A stint of National Service followed, and then a job with the Prudential Insurance Company. It was during this period that Laurie got his "epiphany moment" – one which was to change his life dramatically.

"Everyone in the office would come in every Monday morning, sit at the same desk and just talk about the mundane things they'd done at the weekend, like gardening jobs, what TV they'd watched. In an

instant, the penny dropped – there was a world out there.

"Without much thought – I'd always been interested in opera and Italian culture – I decided to go to Italy".

How he got there is a conversation stopper. Forget the train, or even car. Laurie went a large chunk of the way by ... canoe.

"I had got myself a two-seater some time before, thinking I could travel places with a friend perhaps. But that never happened". He cut his teeth on the canals of Birmingham, moving on to the Rivers Avon and Severn and eventually negotiating the waters around London.

"I'd get the train to Southend in the evening and then canoe across the Thames Estuary in the dark being carried willy-nilly by the tide – once ending up on the Isle of Sheppey – and dodging the cargo boats to and from the Pool of London".

His canoe – a canvas-bottomed one – soon sprang a leak, caused by an ill-fitted patch Laurie had applied. "It had flotation bags, so I knew it couldn't sink, but as I was 10 to 12 miles from shore, I suppose it was a bit hair-raising".

He eventually set off for Italy from London. A colleague of his who waved him off phoned back to the office, saying, "He'll never make it". Unfortunately, he was partly right – Laurie had to abandon the canoe at Dover due to rough seas and unfavourable tides.

He seems to have an innate impatience with fine details, focusing, perhaps, on the bigger picture – "No, I didn't think to check the tides". But he was undeterred. He and the canoe boarded the ferry and then crossed to Calais, where he continued his journey by water.

"But I soon got fed up on the canals, just being surrounded by concrete walls, so I put the canoe on a trolley and started walking. There was another spell on the river, until it became blocked off. When I got onto dry land, I started walking through some fields, which were full of huts".

"A bugle sounded and a load of soldiers appeared. I had somehow walked into a French Army camp. I was instantly arrested and taken before the Colonel. Luckily, he took one look at me, with my guitar, radio and small camping stove and instantly concluded that I wasn't a spy!".

While sleeping in a ditch in France, he recalls listening on his trusty radio to Dame Joan Sutherland singing 'I Dreamed I Dwelt In Marble Halls' from Balfe's *The Bohemian Girl*. Simply dressed and liberated from material trappings, the lyrics must have seemed like the soundtrack of his travels.

For him no 'vassals and serfs' or 'riches too great to count'. Instead, an existence rich in empirical wisdom. In our overly superficial world, I warn to Laurie's

'weltanschauung', divested of the trappings of greed and possessions.

A spell in Perugia, learning Italian, eventually made Laurie realise that there was a lot more to life than an office job. He decided he wanted to be a teacher. Three A-levels at night school – Italian, English and Spanish – then he enrolled as a mature student at Cardiff University, to study Italian, where he met his wife Ruth, also a linguist.

They got married in Laurie's second year of studies and two daughters followed. Laurie got a job teaching French in Fendale Comprehensive, then moved to Pencoed Comprehensive, where he taught Italian and Spanish. "And that's where the running thing really began. I suppose I got bored again really, thinking there was more to life than just the job".

"I started playing five-a-side and then, when the team eventually split up, thought – what next? I was now well into my forties, but wanted to keep fit, so I began jogging – often to and from school".

It wasn't long before Laurie outgrew the challenge of that 'nursery' run and he was soon attempting various half-marathons, such as Aberdare. A change of career to Teaching Assistant, the passing of 20 more years – and then, at the ripe age of 67, he felt he could tackle a bigger challenge – the first of his London Marathons. "But that, too, soon became a bit 'samey' for me – and that's when I read about the Marathon des Sables".

So what keeps this 82-year-old "keeping on"? What really is his motivation for such lengthy, punishing regimes? Trips which have seen him put on a drip, wander off course and face utter exhaustion?

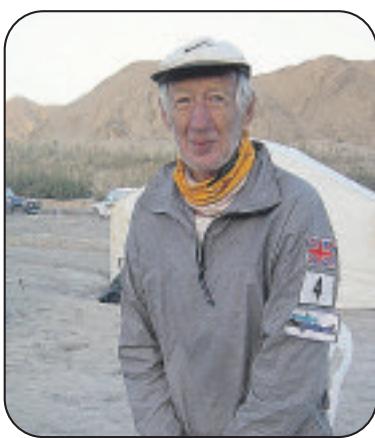
Is there an element of a real life Forrest Gump, with Laurie running away from something? Or is it simply a case of 'raison d'être'? His own personal bucket list, with Laurie 'bucking' the notion of age equalling infirmity?

At the end of our three-hour, armchair marathon (apologies) interview, Laurie packs up his trophies and medals and I offer to drive him to the bus stop.

As if. He jogs off, heavy rucksack on his back, not an ounce of flesh on his slender frame.

"I don't really have a proper training schedule. I just use my legs whenever possible". What simple wisdom. What an inspiration.

**To sponsor Laurie and raise money for Y Bont, which helps and supports disabled children, visit [Next week: The desert days – losing his way and the plot – and an exclusive report on Laurie's Taff Trail challenge.](http://www.justgiving.com/LaurenceBrophy1 or text TTRA532£5 (or chosen amount) to 7007.</p>
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Laurie's races all take place in hot, arid lands, but the temperatures can drop at night, hence the need for warm clothing.

BELOW:
Laurie's daughter Kate, with him on his Chilean adventure.



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It's 'hello and goodbye' at Cor Bro Ogwr!



Left to right: chairperson John Trotter, accompanist Glenn Crooks, Edward-Rhys Harry, Nick Bromilow.

COR BRO OGWR recently bade farewell to its conductor of the past five years, **Edward-Rhys Harry**.

As the choir's chairperson, John Trotter, remarked: "We have travelled the world with Edward; Russia, America, London and ... Reading!"

The choir also travelled along another journey with Edward, having had the privilege of performing some of Edward's own new choral compositions.

Edward is now completing his MPhil degree in the field of musicology at the Royal Welsh College of Music and

Drama, and has recently won a prestigious scholarship to study for a PhD in choral composition in Aberdeen with Professor Paul Mealor.

While the choir will miss Edward and his naughty sense of humour, choristers in south Wales will have the opportunity to continue working with him as he is shortly to take up the baton as artistic director of the relaunched South Wales Choral Union, whose first concert in January 2015 will take place in All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

The choir's new musical director is Nick Bromilow, a graduate from Southampton

University now living in Bristol, where he conducts both the Redland Green Community Chorus and the Highbridge and Burnham Choral Society. Nick plays the French horn, piano and also sings tenor.

Rehearsals have already started for the choir's Christmas concert in Porthcawl on December 13, with Nick devoting his energy and enthusiasm for pieces from John Rutter, Edward-Rhys Harry, *Messiah* and some old favourites.

Cor Bro Ogwr is looking

forward to the challenges of its new young conductor!

Dominique Spearey

Rockabilly fair proves that it's more than just a curtain raiser for the Elvis Festival

**Photos by
MANDY THOMAS**

(Available for purchase,
telephone 07541 982794)

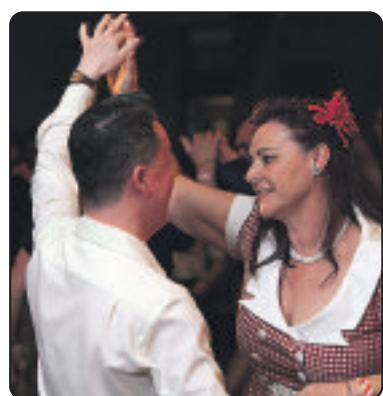
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on Facebook
mandy thomas photography

WITH very little advance publicity, the Welsh Rockabilly Fair (with a burlesque fringe) packed the Hi-Tide Inn last weekend.

Rockabilly may be a niche music these days, but the fans headed for the town, eager to see the groups who are keeping the sound alive.

As these photos show, they embraced the fashions (and the hairstyles) of the 1950s, and they were only too eager to get out on the dance floor and jive the night away!

In the adjoining marquee, traders were selling the fashions and CDs from the period.



ABOVE: Musicians rehearsing in the open air,
with Coney Beach in the background.



Safe and laptop are stolen in a school burglary

DETECTIVES in Bridgend are investigating a report of a burglary at a local evangelical school.

They believe a woman and two men were involved in the burglary at the Wales Evangelical School of Theology during the early hours of Sunday morning, September 14.

Fire doors were forced open and a safe was

taken, which contained a quantity of cash, along with an overhead projector and a laptop.

The woman is described as white, around 5ft 3" in height, of medium build aged between 30-40 years of age. She is believed to have been wearing a black or dark coloured hooded jumper, with a dark yellow strip running down the arm, and black or dark coloured trousers.

One of the men is

described as white, around 6ft 2" in height, of thin build aged between 30-40 years of age, with very short blonde hair. He is understood to have been wearing a black hooded jumper and was carrying a black bin bag and a crowbar.

PS Mark Simmonds said: "A very distinctive laptop was stolen during the burglary, which has both Korean and English lettering on the keypad.

"It is highly likely that the thieves deemed the laptop effectively useless to them and may have thrown it away, possibly near the school or in a nearby bin".

Anyone who can help police is asked to call 101, quoting reference number 1400342855. Alternatively, you can ring Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their website s i t e www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

U3A OPEN DAY

PORTHCAWL U3A is arranging a special open day on Saturday, October 4 at Trinity Church between 10am and 3pm, to show local people the varied activities available throughout the year if they join this progressive and friendly organisation.

The day will consist of exhibits that will provide detailed information on the 35 group activities provided in locations all around our town throughout the year.

Trinity Snacks will continue to be available as usual from 10am until 12 noon, and from 12 noon onwards entertainment will be provided by some talented U3A members.

Porthcawl U3A especially welcomes new members on the day.

No one need feel lonely or isolated if they join U3A, so call in and meet us.

You can be sure you will receive the warmest of welcomes.

At a joining cost of £35 per annum, this is probably the best value for money anyone has ever been offered!

Clive Mort

ASSEMBLY'S £400,000 FUNDING FOR SAFER JOURNEYS TO SCHOOL

TRANSPORT Minister Edwina Hart AM has announced more than £400,000 funding for safe walking and cycling routes at two primary schools in Bridgend county borough.

The grants are part of the Safe Routes in Communities programme for 2014/15 and are in addition to the £5m funding announced earlier this year.

Porthcawl Primary School has been awarded £275,718 for a new cycleway, ramp and gate entrance, upgrading of existing footways to cycleways, cycle storage and improved safety measures on roads near the school.

Tremains Primary School receives

£173,708 for a project for a new footpath, widening of an existing footpath and cycle storage. During a visit to Porthcawl Primary School, Mrs Hart said: "I am very pleased to be able to announce this extra funding under the Safe Routes in Communities programme.

This means pupils at two more schools will now be able to benefit from safe walking and cycling routes. The Welsh Government wants to see as many pupils have the opportunity to walk or cycle safely to school to encourage physical activity and reduce reliance on the car."

Andrew Wood, Porthcawl Primary School Headteacher said: "We are delighted with the decision of the Minister to award the development funds for this

Safe Routes Project. This funding is not just for the pupils of the school but incorporates important elements for the whole community.

"The impact of this decision will be immense, as not only reinforces the work of the school in developing healthy lifestyles and a wide range of health related activities, but supports curriculum development in the key areas of literacy, numeracy and ecological awareness.

"I predict that there will be a significant increase in cycling to school as the whole development promotes safety, physical fitness and the reduction of car use."

In April, the transport minister announced £5m in funding for 30 safe routes in projects across Wales.

Unprovoked attack on a woman walker

POLICE officers in Bridgend are appealing for witnesses to "an unprovoked attack" on a woman walking home at night on Sunday, September 14.

The 22-year-old was punched to the back of her legs and fell to the floor before the assailants tried to steal her handbag. The woman had minor injuries, but did not go to hospital.

Prior to the attack, the woman had been with colleagues in the Horseshoes, but left around 2.15am and

Contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400342975.

Crimestoppers can be contacted free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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Porthcawl Comprehensive School

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 7 INTAKE IN 2015

To be held at 6.00pm Thursday 2nd October 2014

The school is proud to hold its Annual Open Evening for those parents who wish their children to attend Year 7 in September 2015.

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all. Examination results have been consistently above the local and national averages.

In 2013

- 100% students sitting GCSEs in Year 11 gained a qualification A*-G
- 78.9% of pupils passed 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C
- 30 students gained 8 or more GCSEs at A/A* (26 in 2012)

We organise frequent transition events to help pupils settle in; here are some of their thoughts:

"Transition has made me feel more confident!"

"The size of the Comp. has become smaller and is not so big and scary any more!"

"I've already met new friends from other primaries"

Further information can be found on the school website: www.porthcawlschool.co.uk
Alternatively you may telephone 01656 774100.

Our recent Estyn inspection report was very positive and we were proud to read that:

"One of the school's strengths is the exceptional working relationship between teachers and pupils. The school has a strong ethos based on fairness and this creates a caring and disciplined environment."

"Transition work with partner primary schools is of the highest quality."

"At Key Stage 3, performance in English, Mathematics and Science has improved and overall performance is higher than modelled expectations."

"Nearly all pupils behave very well in class and around the school. They are ready to learn and participate well in lessons. They are courteous and relate well to one another, to their teachers and to other adults."

Celia snaps up top award in photo competition!



LOCAL CHOIR AWARDS TWO BOYS MUSICAL SCHOLARSHIPS!



ABOVE:

Peter Greenwood, Roy Bowen (choir chairman) and Owen Jeffries.

DILWYN EVANS A founder member of Porthcawl Male Choir, who passed away in 2003, left a substantial sum to the choir he loved dearly and had served so well.

The choir's management committee decided at that time that he should not be forgotten and a sum of money was set aside to fund what was to be known as the 'Dilwyn Evans Memorial Scholarship.'

This was to be awarded annually to a young person, living in Porthcawl who had been awarded a place in a college of higher education, in order to pursue a career in music.

This, it was felt would be a fitting tribute to Dilwyn.

This was immediately implemented and every year since then applicants are invited to apply in writing, and the one judged to be most worthy is awarded the scholarship.

The successful applicant is presented with a cheque and a certificate to mark the award. This presentation is made by the choir chairman in the presence of the choristers.

Unusually this year, it proved impossible for the judges to decide between two really first class candidates, so it was decided that a scholarship to the same value be awarded to both.

The successful candidates are Owen Jeffries, who plays saxophone, clarinet and piano and has achieved A-Levels in music, music technology and physics and is due to sit his grade

6 piano.

He has been a member of the Bridgend Youth Orchestra for the past eight years. Owen has been awarded a place at Hertfordshire University where he will study music composition.

The other successful candidate is Peter Greenwood, who plays the tuba, an instrument he has played since he was 11 years of age. He was originally auditioned at school to play the trumpet but the school brass teacher convinced him he looked more like a tuba player and it's that instrument he has played ever since.

He has received offers from The Royal Northern College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, but has accepted a place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) in Cardiff.

His ambition is to become a professional orchestral musician.

These two extremely talented young men were presented with their awards by choir chairman Roy Bowen, who congratulated them both and wished them well in their chosen careers.

Credit must go to the musical staff of Porthcawl Comprehensive School, who provided both Owen and Peter with a high standard of musical education. We, in Porthcawl Male choir, are proud to play our own small part in offering encouragement to these young people through this award while preserving the memory of Dilwyn through this award.

John Williams

'Say yes to a clean Cornelly' – and scoop up the poop!

A NEW scheme, 'Yes to a clean Cornelly' was launched recently for North and South Cornelly, Kenfig and Maudlam, supported by Madeleine Moon MP.

The scheme raises awareness of dog owners of their responsibility to clean up after their pets.

"We have started the scheme in response to complaints from local residents about the mess being left, particularly in residential areas," said Denise Roberts, secretary, Cornelly Labour Party.

"Bag it, bin it HERE" stickers, supplied by Bridgend County Borough Council, have

been placed on lamp post bins, as many dog owners may not be aware that the collected poop can be placed in ANY council bin, not just the specific dog bins.

This should make disposing of it much easier for those walking their dogs around out streets.

The MP said: "I was impressed by the response from local residents who were frustrated by the failure of a small number of dog owners to clean up after their dogs.

"The mess along the footpaths made it especially difficult for parents with push chairs and those in wheelchairs. This is an important campaign and one I was pleased to support."

Leaflets are being distributed in the target areas to remind dog owners of their responsibilities and to encourage residents to report problems.

Anyone who allows their dog to foul in a public space without cleaning it up risks an instant fine of £100 and if they are prosecuted, they could face a possible maximum fine of £1,000.

"We know that the majority of dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets, but there is still a small minority who think the law does not apply to them. This is a major concern to many people.

"Dog fouling not only blights our community due to the mess, but it can be harmful to health. We have to tackle it by getting people to pick up after their pets and dispose of the waste properly," said Richard Granville, chair, Cornelly Labour Party.

ALISON LLOYD

IN BRIEF

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies will be holding a 'surgery with a difference' combined with a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday, September 26, between 10am and 12 noon at the Constituency Office, 112-113 Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DL. All proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Lib-Dem advice

WELSH Lib-Dem regional AM for south Wales west, Peter Black, will hold a surgery on Friday, September 26, in Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm. No appointment is necessary.

Advance notice

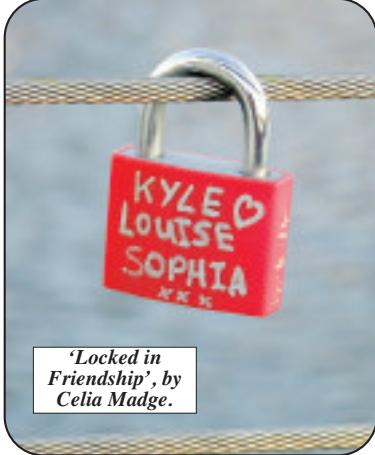
BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) holds its AGM on December 5 at Bethlehem Church Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr.

each image.

It was a very close-fought competition, which included some fun images. The eventual winner was Celia Madge with her high-impact photograph 'Locked in Friendship'.

There were several others shortlisted in the final, including images from Geoff Baker, Dave Jones, Richard Craze, John Corcoran and Dan Minto.

Congratulations to Celia for winning the competition and a big thank you to all who took part for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.



BRIDGE CLUB results update

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

Wednesday, September 17 - First, David Birt and Mike Best; second, David Lea and Emer Disley; third, Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams.

The best placed improvers for September 11 were Stuart Davies, Colin Lewis, Michael Williams, Christine Davies and Susan Hunt.

Friday, September 19 - First, Vida Halford and Glyn Evans; second, John Raymond and Bill Turner; third, Tony Disley and David Lea.

A new series of lessons will commence on Thursday, September 18, at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

These are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall,

it is still possible to book a place on the course; contact John Evans on 01656 880372. DN



Jane James of Jade Boutique is hoping people will join her for a fundraiser for Layla-mae on October 15.

'OUR BIG MIRACLE IN A LITTLE GIRL' Jade Boutique is holding fundraiser for brave Layla-mae

A special fundraising event is being held for six-year-old Layla-mae Cummings, who had a brain tumour removed last week at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Layla-mae is the daughter of Claire and Gareth Cummings and the granddaughter of Bob Armstrong of Dr Bob Balloons Unlimited in High Street, Barry.

Jane James of Jade Boutique in the town, who is a friend of the family, said: "We're holding a charity fashion evening at Scarlet's Wine Bar, Barry, on Wednesday, October 15 at 7.30pm.

"It is a chance to see our autumn ranges and raise funds for a worthy cause."

Layla-mae underwent an operation to remove the tumour last

BY GEM REPORTER

Thursday. Mum and dad, Claire and Gareth, said: "Layla-mae came out of surgery and had a very trying time. She seized 24 times and had problems with her eyes. She remained in recovery for three hours.

"They carried out an emergency CT scan, but there was only a small bleed and the surgeons were happy. Layla-mae was moved to high dependency. She woke well, spoke, smiled and tried water and nibbled on food. We were so very proud.

"She is now out of high dependency and all drips have been removed. She was incredibly brave every step of the way, both post-op and pre-op. "She is now in an isolation room. She is still suffering with her eyes, shakes and has numerous seizures; she is feeling quite sick and has a lot of pain and is generally very tired.

"However, she is with us and doing so well, considering what could have been. She still has her fantastic growl and sense of humour!"

"The journey will continue for Layla-mae as it is still very early days. We will come back to Great Ormond Street Hospital in six weeks for results and it will take at least six months for a true picture of her progress.

"She is our trooper – as we say our 'big miracle in a little girl'."

Tickets for the fundraiser are £10 and are available at Jade Boutique and Scarlet's and include 'nibbles'.

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Intrepid WRAFs celebrate 75th anniversary with novel charity relay!

WRAFs on tour is a group of around 600 former WRAFs and currently serving female personnel who are completing a UK wide charity relay – walking, cycling, running or using any other mode of transport.

One lady is even planning to walk over the Severn Bridge on crutches in a bid to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and RAFA (Royal Air Force Association).

A spokeswoman at MoD St

Athan explained: "They hope this will really capture the imagination and support of as many people as possible. The idea was first suggested around a year ago and now women of all ages (including several ladies over 70) are taking part, some on horseback!"

"This is an important year, in terms of anniversaries, for women in the Royal Air Force – it will be 75 years since WAAF was formed; 65 years since the name changed to WRAF and 20 years since the 'W' officially disappeared under the complete

merge with the RAF.

"It is also 100 years since the start of World War One; an important anniversary for all members of the armed forces. The ladies are hoping to finish the relay at the National Arboretum where they will lay a floral tribute," she concluded.

The ladies will be setting off from MoD St Athan at 10am on Thursday, October 2. If you would like to join them for coffee and give them a St Athan send off, contact the MCO at MoD St Athan, Mrs Jane Bissett on 07736 340024.

FORGOTTEN CASTLE

RHOOSE and District History Society is holding its monthly meeting on Friday, September 26 at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, when Brian Davies is speaking on 'Cardiff's Forgotten Castle'. Tickets on door £1; children 50p.



Our GEM Facebook winner for September 18, 2014 is:

SAM LANGFORD MCCULLOCH

who correctly answered last week's question in the GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Congratulations to Sam!

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Schedule on Glamorgan Pony Club Site

www.pcuk.org/glamorgan



'Dyffryn Daff' goes on sale

DYFFRYN GARDENS is celebrating the release of the Dyffryn Daffodil which has won international status as a new breed of Daffodil.

Cory Cup winner of Falmouth, Ron Scamp, has developed the daffodil Narcissus Dyffryn over the last few years and launched it at the RHS Cardiff show on April 11. It has won international recognition as a new species.

The daffodil will be available exclusively through Ron Scamp and Dyffryn Gardens.

"We are known for

our unique and exotic plant collections that have come from all over the globe. It's great to have our own daffodil that is specific to us that we can share with the public. We hope that the bulbs sell so that we can see the local area adorned with its own flower next spring," said Alex Luker, head gardener at Dyffryn Gardens.

The daffodil bulbs are available from 10am – 5pm from the gift shop at Dyffryn Gardens at £4 each or three for £10.

The gardens are open seven days a week from 10am until 6pm until the end of September.

Tenovus Ladies' annual lunch

THE annual Tenovus Ladies' Lunch, sponsored by Western Power Distribution (WPD), will be held at The St David's Hotel and Spa on Friday, October 3 from 12pm.

Following the success of their 1940's themed lunch last October, this year's theme will be 'Handbags and Gladrags'. Attendees are asked to "dress up in their finest gladrags, bring their best arm candy and enjoy a sophisticated lunchtime of fashion and fine dining".

Welsh jewellery designer Carrie Elspeth will be giving a talk and The Style Team, with personal stylist Wenda James-Roe, will offer stylish tips and tricks to guests!

Each year, over 2,600 people are diagnosed with breast cancer in Wales.

The charity lunch raises vital funds during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with those attending helping to support breast cancer patients throughout Wales.

For full details and to book a table, call 029 2076 8860 or visit www.tenovus.org.uk

Ramblers pay tribute to Zulu the donkey...

ELEVEN Penarth and District Ramblers, including leader Geraint, gathered at St John's well in the 12th century village of Newton to follow an ancient inland route connecting three fresh water wells – the other two, Ffynnon Fawr and Ffynnon Dewi, being situated in the nearby Saxon settlement of Nottage.

Tramping quiet lanes, fields and tracks to reach the statuesque and mysterious Sker House and joining the Wales Coast Path, they paused for lunch in warm autumnal sunshine in part of Rest Bay before continuing across Lock's Common to reach Porthcawl.

Making their way along the seafront before scoffing refreshing cool

ices at Coney Beach, a short trek across Sandy and Trecco Bays brought them back to their start.

Eleven walkers including organiser and leader William set out to enjoy a two-day walking adventure from Porlock in the Exmoor National Park, beginning with a trip to Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor. Special thanks go to Josie for baking two delicious cakes that provided a boost to the group's energy levels.

Making their way to Horner and then Webber's Post before climbing steadily through gorse and over moorland to reach the cairn on Dunkery Hill, the rewards were wonderful views which stretched before them during their lunch break.

Then a pause on their journey at the isolated Stoke Pero church to learn an interesting fact that during renovations a donkey named Zulu earned his own notoriety

MACMILLAN COFFEE TASTER

TOMORROW (September 26) Macmillan Cancer Support Ambassador David Emanuel is hosting Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning at Gileston Manor, Gileston, CF62 4HX.

David told The GEM: "It is going to be a really big bash! We're holding it in the gardens and are looking forward to meeting everyone. I'm even hoping it may become an annual event."

Explore the gardens, have coffee and cake in picturesque surroundings, and win prizes in the raffle and tombola, while raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Gates open at 10am. Admission at gate is £5; car parking available.



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Trust thatched cottage village of Selworthy for afternoon tea at Perwinkle Cottage.

Tramping up and down hill – they went through pretty woodland at the Doverhay Plantation and arrived back in Porlock.

Setting out eagerly from Porlock on day two towards the delightful Bossington Beach and jams were quickly snapped up! Their return was via Bossington and across the marshes.

On September 27, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 9-mile hard walk in the Abercarn area; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On September 28, meet at 9am at Cogan for an 11-mile strenuous walk up the big four, Fan y Big, Cribyn, Pen y Fan and Corn Du; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

To follow the group, please log on to www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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Ambulance chief stepping down from his Welsh role

IT has been announced that Elwyn Price-Morris is stepping down as Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust on September 30.

The Trust Board has also announced that Tracy Myhill will succeed him on an interim basis "pending the recruitment and selection of a substantive replacement".

She is currently deputy Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and will take up the post

on October 1 for a period of 12–18 months.

A spokesperson said: "Elwyn has been suffering with serious health problems for the past six months. Although he has continued to work until recently, he has now accepted medical advice that he needs to take time away from the workplace in order that the situation can be properly assessed and that the necessary steps can be taken to improve his health.

"Elwyn has held discussions with the chairman of the Trust and they have reached a mutual decision that in his own interest and the interests of the service, he will not be returning to the Chief Executive's post once his health issues are resolved.

"This will enable the Trust to bring in new leadership at a critical time in the organisation's development and allow Elwyn to seek out new opportunities to utilise his extensive experience of the Welsh public sector."

Mick Giannasi, Trust Chairman, added that:

"Elwyn has led the Trust very ably for the last four years and has made a significant contribution to the development of the organisation.

"While there are still significant challenges to be addressed, not least the need to improve current levels of performance, he leaves the organisation in a stronger position than when he took it over.

"I wish him every success in what he ultimately decides to do in the future, but for now, resolving his health issues has to be his number one priority."

Tracy Myhill said: "I feel privileged to have the opportunity to lead the Trust at this time and look forward to building on the progress made by Elwyn, the team and staff at the organisation. The Welsh Ambulance Service is a vital and highly valued service for the people of Wales.

"I look forward to working with others on the challenges needing to be addressed, so that the service we provide is highly regarded by all."

THE new £88m mental health unit for adults at University Hospital Llandough has been named 'Hafan y Coed' (Haven of Trees) in an effort to destigmatise mental health issues.

"The modern, purpose-built 135-bed inpatient facility will bring together existing adult and specialist services provided at Whitchurch Hospital and the Llanfair Unit, under one roof.

At a recent Cardiff and Vale University Health Board meeting, a report was submitted to the board, following consultation with patients and staff.

Clinical project lead Simone Jocelyn, who wrote the report, said:

"The unit is expected to meet the aspirations and hopes of service users and they have expressed a wish that the building needs to exhibit a change in perspective of mental health issues and services.

"The space needs to express openness, safety, caring and recovery.

"Many people's lives are enhanced by nature and this theme should be able to meet that need and provide a talking point within the unit.

"The unit utilised gardens, outside areas and art to offer warmth and inspiration to the user's experience.

"Through nature, we can express and fulfil ourselves, and engage with other people in ways that other forms of communication do not offer.

"Leaves and trees are positive imagery. Tree names are being utilised to name the wards, promoting associations with the natural environment and the seasons, and provide a connection with natural processes and a stress-free environment.

"Nature, as a theme for the unit and ward names, would assist a comprehensive approach to the building."

Construction is expected to be completed in January 2016.



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Keep Wales Tidy awards

KEEP Wales Tidy is environment through again calling on reducing litter, volunteer groups, protecting wildlife schools and habitats; and also create links in communities, organisations to put bringing people together their names forward and in some instances for the Tidy Wales reducing the impact of awards. Could this poverty.

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www.keepwalestidy.org
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David Melding AM

Welsh Conservative Assembly Member for South Wales Central covering the Vale of Glamorgan



David will be holding advice surgeries between 10 a.m. and midday at 29 High Street, Barry, CF62 5EB on the following dates during the autumn. No appointment is necessary:

16th October, 21st October,
16th November and 20th November.

If you would like to get in touch with David about any issue or problems, please contact him at:

The National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA

Tel: 02920899732

e-mail: david.melding@wales.gsi.gov.uk

EyePAT's Big Lottery award to run Happy Kids Don't Bully assemblies

EyePAT CIC in the Vale has been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to run its successful Happy Kids Don't Bully Workshops in 15 schools in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Neath Port Talbot, Torfaen and Gwent.

"The reason chronic bullying is taking place is because the 'Bully' is displaying a coping behaviour to try and deal with their own insecurities, fears and issues," EyePAT's Happy Kids and Happy People's programme works, as it gets to the root cause of the problem," Penny Steinbauer, EyePAT's Training Director explained.

"There are basically four different types of bully. Accidental, Opportunistic, Health Issues and Chronic. Happy Kids and Happy People Don't Bully are designed specifically to work with the Chronic Bully, the malicious bully..."

The concept behind these workshops was developed initially with Bridgend Restorative Justice Team for a



ABOVE:
Penny Steinbauer.

conference for Mental Health Matters Wales. The EyePAT workshops were officially launched in July 2013 at the Senedd and were sponsored by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale.

EyePAT run the workshops in schools under the title Happy

Kids Don't Bully, and in the workplace as Happy People Don't Bully.

Vale-based Penny is looking forward to speaking at the Cardiff Against Bullying's Young People's Conference, in Cardiff City Stadium on October 23.

NFU down on the farm
NFU Cymru president Stephen James, deputy president John Davies and Milk Board chairman Aled Jones, will be guest speakers at the Glamorgan NFU Cymru meeting on October 9 at Ham in Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe, by permission of Abi Reader, the county chairman.

Goldsland Farm is a mixed beef, sheep, arable and dairy unit and members will be able to take a tour of the new milking parlour facility.

Homeless puppy 'pawpers' are looking for love!

DOGS TRUST Bridgend is appealing for a loving home for two special residents: adorable 12-week-old lurcher pups, Isaac and Inca, didn't have the best start in life which began before their mother Isla came to the Rehoming Centre.

Isla endured a horrific ordeal living as a stray on the streets of Bridgend. She managed to survive on scraps from local shopkeepers for months, before she was attacked by youths, who threw sticks and stones at her until she collapsed.

Amazingly, not only did Isla survive the ordeal, but when a kind passerby rushed her to a local vet for treatment, it was discovered that she was also heavily pregnant. Miraculously, a few weeks later she even gave birth to eight healthy puppies, including Inca and Isaac.

She was then passed to Dogs Trust Bridgend and fortunately the plucky pooch soon recovered after plenty of TLC from her carers at the Rehoming Centre. Not



Isaac and Inca.

only has she found the dogs who will make loving new family she super pets in the right homes.

"We were delighted to see Isla find the wonderful happy ending

which she deserves and it would just be perfect for this little family to see them all find happy homes of their own. Sadly, Isla witnessed the worst of humanity when she was forced to live on the streets, so we are desperate that her pups will only know the very best, in loving homes for life."

Anyone interested in offering the puppies – or other dogs at the centre – a new home, should call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219, or visit www.dogtrust.org.uk

Both can live with other compatible dogs and children as young as eight. They are fantastic

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First Minister demands a 'Constitutional Convention' following vote in Scotland

FOllowing the result of the referendum on independence in Scotland – won by the ‘No’ vote – the focus has turned to constitutional reform and how a fair funding settlement for the constituent parts of the United Kingdom can be achieved.

Wales’ concerns are the £300m a year funding gap in the Barnett Formula that favours Scotland and Northern Ireland – and whether more powers will be devolved to the Welsh Government.

UK politicians have indicated that there will be no change in the Barnett Formula, and in England there have been calls for Scottish MPs to lose their

right to vote on laws affecting English people.

Welsh politicians are anxious that their voice is heard as the debate over the future government of the UK gains momentum.

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones, who is the AM for Bridgend, welcomed the Scottish ‘No’ vote which he said was in the interests of the different parts of the United Kingdom.

But in a press conference he insisted the UK’s constitutional arrangements had to be properly examined.

“I have long called for a constitutional convention – for more than two years now. That would draw up a future settlement which reflects the aspirations of the UK’s constituent parts.”

He went on: “Wales’ under funding needs to be

addressed. We are under funded to the tune of £300 per year. That’s money that could be spent on our NHS and on education in Wales.

Welsh Conservative Leader Andrew RT Davies AM, who lives in the Vale, said: “Welsh Conservatives remain open-minded about the future of devolution for Wales and other parts of the UK, but change must be driven by the people.”

“Any changes to the constitutional settlement must be focused on improving the lives of the people of Wales – and not playing to politicians’ egos.”

The general election is just seven months away – May 7, 2015 – and constitutional experts have warned politicians that changes made in haste could be damaging in the long term.

LIFT group meetings

VOLUNTARY organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today) is a self-help group for those affected by breast cancer, which meets once a fortnight in Cowbridge to offer support and friendship for people living in the Vale.

A range of relaxation therapies, trips out, visiting speakers, or just time to talk with others in a similar situation is offered.

The next LIFT group meeting will be on Wednesday, October 8, between 10am and 1pm; then again on Wednesday, October 22 between 2pm and 4pm. New members are warmly welcomed.

Contact Anne on 01446 772843, or Jan on 01446 774575 for further information, or programme of events for this autumn 2014.

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Steve takes sporting chance to join choir!



Steve (right) with Gareth and Dorothy.

STEPHEN JAMES, the most recent recruit to the Barry Male Voice Choir was warmly welcomed by choir chairman Gareth Roberts and musical director Dorothy Connell at a recent rehearsal.

Stephen, a long standing local sportsman, said: "I'm delighted to become a member of the choir. In the short time that I've been attending rehearsals, I've been made to feel very welcome and already feel part of a new team."

For further information, see www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk, also on Facebook and Twitter.

Big transformation on the way at Crossway Methodist Church

CROSSWAY
Methodist Church has mounted a new cross on the outside of the building.

The Rev Peter Taylor told The GEM: "We now have a great new replacement cross on the Court Road side. It was made by Barrie Lockyer, a gentleman who attend our 'Open Door' mid week group run by the church community.

"The cross and a time capsule – stored in the building – were dedicated as part of the morning worship on September. There will be interior changes too.

The Rev Taylor explained: "As a Church, we are planning some small but significant changes to our interior.

"This 'space' project is all about creating a more flexible space for the church and community groups.

"We are having a new sanctuary platform area built with a demountable communion rail by Salevon, a Barry firm, and we are removing some pews.

"There will be new carpeting as well as some planned enhancements to the audio and visual system.

"We will also have some new chairs, some

The new cross on the outside of the church was made by Barrie Lockyer.



in the church space and the majority for the hall. The work will take place during October.

"All of this will of course mean some serious expenditure for the church. We are grateful to the VOG Council Welsh Churches Act Trust and the Vale

Methodist Circuit and Wales Synod for their generous support.

"The church is planning some fund raising in the coming months and year.

"On Saturday, September 27 from 2pm-4pm, Crossway Methodist Church is holding a 'Gift Day'.

"It is an opportunity to give thanks to God for our church and to help in our mission, ministry and community outreach now and in the coming years.

"All gifts received will be used towards the fund raising for the 'Church Physical and Spiritual Space' project.

"Refreshments will be available.

Feel free to sit in prayer and quiet in the church. Stay for as little or long as you can.

"There will be the opportunity to donate towards this project at the Sunday morning service (September 28) at 11am if you cannot get along.

"Look out for more fundraising events, such as a quiz night and concerts in the coming months!"

Some pews are to be sold to raise funds.

For more information on how to support the church, the Rev Taylor can be contacted on 01446 406262.

Scherfig's Riot Club a dark and dangerous place...

DIRECTOR
Lone Scherfig may be Danish, but she seems to have a fascination with the lives of the upwardly mobile denizens of England.

Her breakthrough film, *An Education*, captured the life of an impressionable young woman in 1960s England wonderfully well, while her adaptation of David Nicholls' *One Day* was a romantic comedy/drama for the middle classes.

Her latest film, *The Riot Club*, is based on the play *Posh* by Laura Wade (who also writes the screenplay here), and is a fictionalised version of the infamous Bullingdon Club which once counted among its number David Cameron and Boris Johnson.

Here we follow Miles (Max Irons) and Alistair (Sam Claflin), two first year students

determined to join the infamous Riot Club, where reputations can be made or destroyed over the course of a single evening.

However, the reality of the club soon hits home and loyalty is tested by a chain of events...

Adapting a play for the big screen can be fraught with dangers, particularly one that sees the play's writer doing the adapting, as the tendency to make the film look like a staged performance rather than a film is always high.

It's a trap that *The Riot Club* falls into, and while it makes for an entertaining watch, slowly twisting the tension and drama, it feels a little soft-soaked in its aims and can't quite shake off its origins.

Lone Scherfig isn't a supreme visualist as a director, more one who is capable of using the camera to subtly tease out performance and drive the narrative along; and while there's no question that she does that, there are very few moments where the film feels propelled by any great deal of kinetic energy.

Instead, it feels a

of the club, you'll struggle to get out.

Sam Claflin as the pent-up Alistair seethes with issues of being in the shadow of his older brother (a *Riot Club* 'legend'), whose anger manifests itself in a horrifying way.

The rest of the cast are all fine, but being given little to do, you will find yourself held in by these two performances and faintly remembering the rest, who do hold up the weight when action switches to the club's annual meal in a countryside gastro pub, the ramifications of which lead to a conclusion that feels undercooked.

It's an accusation that can be levelled at Wade and, to a degree, Scherfig; ultimately, the message of the film is that money, status and power are unquenchable and all-powerful, and those with it have scant concern for those without ("You're no better than kids smashing shop windows," says the landlord of the aforementioned pub when things get out of control). But if it's trying for satire, it only really raises the 'ire' part, the students'

behaviour ranging from funny to downright disgusting; the satire, though, doesn't hit the target.

The Riot Club still makes for a decent night's watch, the story ebbing and flowing, and delivers some intrigue as events play out, but while thematically interesting, the execution doesn't quite pay off.

VERDICT: An intriguing film, *The Riot Club* is more than watchable, but hampered by its inherent stage-based nature, that Lone Scherfig fails to remedy. Laura Wade, adapting from her own play, aims high, but a lack of bite and inability to really satirise these characters means that you go along for a ride that slowly turns darker and more destructive. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The History Boys* (2006), *Doubt* (2008).



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

little staid, reminiscent of a TV drama rather than a film, with only the climactic meal really hooking you.

Scherfig's CV makes her a good choice of director for material of this ilk, and aside from the visual shortcomings, she does a good job of holding the story together and taking a magnifying glass to the upper classes, whose sense of entitlement and status are the fuel that the film fires on.

Wade's screenplay doesn't put Scherfig on the front foot by any means, as what feels like a posh, Oxford-set episode of *The Inbetweeners* plays broad comedy, before descending into the dark recesses – as feelings, emotions and resentments bubble towards the surface.

But while the opening is offensively humorous (why valet your expensive car when you can just buy a new one and donate the old one to a charity shop?), it doesn't develop your characters enough for the dramatic denouement.

The time when you really need to be invested in the characters you'll be struggling to remember their names.

That isn't to say the performances are bad. Max Irons (son of Jeremy and Sinead Cusack) offers us proles a turn as a posh boy with an empathy for the working classes, and delivers a decent performance,

discovering that once you enter the rabbit hole

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Out and About with The GEM

Movietime at Colwinston!

COLWINSTON is the latest village in the rural Vale to establish a 'pop-up' cinema and will be showing the epic blockbuster *Edge of Tomorrow* starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt on September 27 in Colwinston Village Hall at 8pm.

"We've enjoyed a lot of local support for the project, from Creative Rural Communities, Vale of Glamorgan Council for loaning the professional equipment and from our fellow Vale cineastes in Llancafnan and Murchfield Film Societies in helping us to put on a good show," comments David Ferrie.

"We had a good audience for our first screening of *Philomena* in May and this encouraged us to put together a full programme of films for the autumn season."

Tickets £6 on the door, or £4.50 in advance from the Sycamore Tree Inn, Colwinston.

Vintage Market

Vintage, collectables, shabby chic & handmade items.

Join us for our next event on 28th September at

Barry Island Railway Station

Admission Free.

To book a stall contact Gail on 07933 158793 or visit our Facebook page Vintage in the Vale or Tweet us @vintageinvale

ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS

Saturday 27th September

RUTH MASON

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Sunday

DARTS COMPETITION

Every Sunday

CAR BOOT SALE

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01446 710362 / 711538

Vintage fun for everyone!

THE late Victorian railway station at Barry Island used to boast one of the longest covered platforms in the UK.

This Sunday, the station including the ticket office, waiting room and covered platform, will be playing host to a vintage market.

Vintage in the Vale takes advantage of this great setting to showcase some local vintage, collectables, shabby chic and handmade products – the stallholders are all from the local area.

Join in the vintage fun at Barry Island Railway Station from 10.20 am to 3pm on September 28.

Penarth surgery

ELuned Parrott, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm on September 26.

Residents who have issues of concern to them or their local community, are encouraged to pop along. No appointment is necessary.

Family fun

EVERYONE is invited to a free harvest family fun event on Saturday, September 27 at Bethel Baptist Church, Barry.

Craft activities from 4.10pm; celebration including a puppet show from 5.10pm; and food from 5.30pm.

Llantwit coffee

THERE will be a coffee morning at Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, September 27 at 10am – 12pm. Entrance is £3; there will be a book stall, cakes for sale and bric-a-brac. Everyone welcome.

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, September 27 at 10am until noon. Entry £1 (to include tea/coffee). Bargains for all!

Knight school!

COSMESTON Medieval Village is opening a Knight School on September 27 – 28!

The public can watch knights training throughout the day, with practice battles taking place at 12pm and 3pm. Entry is free.

BARRY Nr. Cardiff TOY & TRAIN SALE

SUNDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

10.30am - 3.00pm

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80 Tables, Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Britains, EFE, Lledo, Hornby, Bachmann, Lima, etc. Great Café by Rita Limbrick.

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WILL NOT SURVIVE

Westbourne School, Penarth

This Saturday 27th Sept. 9.00 - 12.30

Town walk

PLAID Cymru councillor Ian Johnson will lead a walk in Barry, in coordination with the Tiger Bay Ramblers, on September 28, from 10.30am (Dock Offices car park near Barry Docks train station) ending on Barry Island.

The walk is expected to last around four hours. There is no charge. Contact Ian Johnson on 07738 18267.

RNLI Porthcawl

THE Quilts raffle will be drawn on Sunday, September 28 at 12 noon in the RNLI shop, Porthcawl; last chance to purchase tickets to win one of the quilts on display in the RNLI shop.

Toy and train sale

BARRY Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street is hosting the next Toy and Train Sale shortly, on Sunday, September 28 between 10.30am and 3pm – the second of this type at this venue in 2014 with another to follow in late November.

The sister event, Cardiff Toy and Train Sale, will be held at Penarth Leisure Centre on October 11.

Organiser Chris Dyer said this week: "Barry attracts a great range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and a wonderful array of stock is always available from all the big names, such as Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Tri-ang, Hornby, Lima, Wrenn, Bachmann etc.

"This Barry show is already almost fully-booked with traders and 'house full' is expected by the day of the sale."

Tel: (01643) 702757 and 07966 694579; www.chrisdyerfairst.co.uk.

Tax advice

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale are holding a free tax advice surgery at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Monday, September 29 (9.30am – 11.30am).

No appointment is needed, with professional tax adviser. Contact 01446 732385 for further information. Home visits can also be arranged.

Flower arrangers

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers club will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday, October 1 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, when Alwyn Page will give a demonstration entitled 'Simple Pleasures'.

Art Society

ON Thursday, October 2, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist Richard Blunt, who will give a demonstration in chalk and charcoal.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see

Bingo back with a bang!

FOLLOWING on the

holidays, the first session of the Royal British Legion autumn series bingo in Cowbridge was a great success.

All the regulars were there and a few more recruits... Some said that after burning themselves on a sun-soaked foreign beach, it was a great relief to be back to the stimulating, intellectual pursuit of bingo!

I was threatened not to mention HH's forthcoming birthday, otherwise there would be serious consequences – so I haven't!

It would be unglamourous to mention her age, but it had a nought in it and it was not 10.

Well, why not join us for the next session on Thursday, October 2 at the Lesser Hall of Cowbridge Town Hall? Doors open at 7pm; eyes down 7.30 promptly.

Apart from cash prizes for bingo, there will be valuable prizes for the raffle, the first one being a valuable voucher from a local

www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Choral society concert

ST ILTYD'S Church in Llantwit Major is the venue for the Cowbridge Choral Society's 'Falling Leaves' concert at 7.30pm on Saturday, October 4.

The choir will be conducted by Carole Lloyd, director of music, and accompanied by Geoff Howells in a programme of well known classical pieces, as well as popular songs from the early 20th century. There will also be some guest performances. Tickets are available from Davies newsagent in Cowbridge, or the box office on 01446 792175.

The society rehearses every Thursday at 7.30pm in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the Police Station). All are welcome.

Stand-up line-up at comedy club

BRIDGEND is set to welcome some of Wales' and the UK's best comedy talent in the form of Bridgend Comedy Club at The Railway pub on October 6 from 8pm.

The first Monday of every month will see three great acts hand picked by MC Chris Chopping. He promises experienced performers who have gigged across the UK to appreciative audiences. Chris himself is an award winning comic and reached the final of this year's Welsh Unsigned Stand up Award.

The stellar line up for the next show features a wealth of Welsh wit: Geraint Evans and star of S4C's Gigl, Steffan Alun. Tickets £4 on the door.

TaxHelp for older people

A TOP's income tax surgery offering free professional advice to older people on a restricted income will be held at Roz Couzens' Chiropody surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB on October 6, from 10am – midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Dolls house exhibition

THE Mid Glamorgan Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group will hold its annual dolls' house exhibition on Saturday, October 11 from 10am-4pm at the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Entrance fee, adults £1, children over 5, 50p. Displays, sales tables, light refreshments. All proceeds go to Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity.

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October 28th 2014

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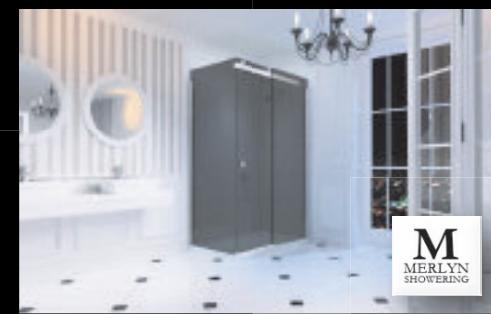
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Appeal for witnesses after a street assault in Barry

BARRY police are appealing for witnesses 18 – 23 years of age. The victim went to University Hospital Wales for treatment to injuries which included bruising to both eyes.

If you have any information, contact South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference 1400296929. Alternatively contact Crimestoppers free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Live a life of adventure WITH MARIA LEIJERSTAM

Double world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, inspires you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Did you know that nutrition in sport is just as important as the training itself? Many people come to me just prior to an event they are due to take part in and ask why they are feeling tired or unwell or why parts of their body are aching.

The first thing I say is that you need to think of your body as a machine so that what you put in, you get out.

If you fill yourself with 'empty calorie' foods which are high in calories from saturated fat and sugar, but very low in vital nutritional ingredients, for example, foods such as chips, chocolate and biscuits, it won't take long for your body to begin to complain. I always advise to try and replace these items with nutritional foods, the best ones being those of a single ingredient that have not been processed in any way.

We need also to remember that our bodies are highly intelligent machines and unlike mechanical machines, which are predictable, our bodies are not because they go through a process of adaptation based on what we do.

This is what makes the human body so



night before and in the morning you fuel yourself with nutritional foods of the correct quantity for what you're about to do. Once you've completed your activity you need to rest and help your body to repair with protein based foods. Once this is all done, make sure you don't forget a shower.

It's not too late to set yourselves a family challenge, sign up at www.burnseries.co.uk

Footnote:

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

The GEM newspaper and Multisport Ltd are not responsible or liable, directly, indirectly or consequentially, for any form of damages whatsoever resulting from the use (or misuse) of information contained in or implied by the column.

Last chance to vote for your favourite park

RESIDENTS in the Vale are being urged to cast their vote for the annual People's Choice Award to decide which of the 1,482 Green Flag Award parks should be named the UK's Park of the Year.

The Vale was awarded five Green Flag awards in 2014. Belle Vue Park in Penarth and Victoria Park in Barry retained their green flag status from last year, and there were new awards for both Romilly Park and Central Park in Barry, as well as Alexandra Park

and Windsor Gardens in Penarth.

Now all five are in the running to be named the UK's favourite park. To vote, visit www.greenflagaward.org, select your country or region on the interactive map, find your favourite park or green space, and click the 'vote for this site' button.

You can also vote at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk under 'green flag award'.

The vote will close at 12pm on September 30 and the winner of the 2014 People's Choice will be announced on October 16.

Butlins camp remembered

A BLUE plaque will be unveiled by the Mayor of the Vale, Councillor Howard Hamilton, on September 27 in the new seafront garden on Barry Island, part of the £3m refurbishment of the coastline round Nell's Point.

The plaque, paid for by private subscription, commemorates the Butlins holiday camp that occupied the whole site from 1966–1986 and its operator, the showman and philanthropist, Sir William 'Billy' Butlin.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £25

to spend with any GEM advertiser this week. Competition running every week during 2014.

Simply answer the question posted on Facebook each week.

You will find the answer in that week's GEM which is available online and in print every Thursday.

Inbox us your answer and contact details. Competition closes at 5pm every Monday.

Every week a winner is chosen at random and will have £25 to spend with any advertiser in that week's GEM!

Like us on facebook: facebook.com/glamorgangem



POLICE BIKE MARKING WAS A 'GREAT SUCCESS'



A RECENT bike marking event in Penarth, hosted jointly by South Wales Police and British Transport Police, was "a great success."

Residents and cyclists alike made the most of the free bike marking scheme with 58 bikes being marked along with three scooters. Additionally, laptops, mobile phones and tablets were also security marked for local residents.

"This was an opportunity for residents to meet with their local Police Community Support Officers in an informal setting and it was a great success".

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D845.

- £2,000: 320404.
- The rollover, which now stands at £1,500 was not won this week.
- £10: 795924, 835909, 531947, 786835, 764951, 690005, 586346, 188485, 821756, 937392, 238207, 640961, 223528, 741992, 462143, 742791, 953059, 783503, 614970, 362809.
- £5: 423173, 163466, 205148, 479693, 855269, 330296, 687073, 129243, 248998, 612633.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.



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SPECIAL RATE: Double Room only £59.95
inc. Breakfast for anybody attending a Christmas Party Night

Christmas Menu 2014 - £25 per person

Friday 5th December • Saturday 6th December

Friday 12th December • Saturday 13th December

Cocktail on arrival - entertainment 'til late...

STARTER

Goats Cheese & Roasted Red Pepper Tart
Prawn Cocktail

Our own Chicken Liver Paté, Caramelised Red Onion Chutney & Melba Toast
Winter Vegetable Soup

MAIN COURSE

Turkey Roast - Cranberry, Bacon & Sage Stuffing
Pan Roasted Red Snapper with Dill & Caper Butter
Portobello Mushroom Top with Tomato, Basil & Parmesan (V)

Lamb Rump - Redcurrant and Rosemary Jus

8oz Rib Eye Steak with Roquefort Glaze
Roast Sirloin with Yorkshire Pudding
All served with seasonal vegetables

DESSERT

Selection of desserts on the night
Coffee or Tea with Mints

Transport available - £5 return

Bookings available for other dates in December without entertainment

**£10 DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED
AT TIME OF BOOKING**

Kids' Halloween Party

Friday, 31st October



£5.75 per head • Party games, snacks, fancy dress - limited numbers.

Bonfire Night

Wednesday, 5th November
Tickets now on sale!

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The pleasures of country dining can enhance your Christmas party

THREE is a lot to be said for planning an office Christmas party – or a family one – as a real outing, and this really brings into focus the many virtues of the Vale.

So many venues – be they country pubs, hotels or establishments in small villages – are now tuned into welcoming parties, and they have become skilled at meeting all requirements.

Hiring a mini-van or coach can be part of the build-up to the evening, and can increase the 'buzz' and camaraderie, getting everyone relaxed and in a

party mood before you set foot in the venue.

It also, to state the obvious, takes care of the drink/drive problem!

So much has changed over the years when it comes to dining.

Time was when each establishment had its own, very predictable style of cuisine.

Country pubs would serve up something home-cooked, wholesome and traditional.

If part of a chain, you would be in prawn cocktail, steak and black forest gateau territory.

For good Italian food, go to an Italian. Ditto for Indian, French or Spanish. It was one style of food per establishment, resulting in

endless arguments over how to choose where to eat.

Nowadays, menus can be put together that have an excellent chance of satisfying the varied tastes of any random group of diners-out.

As customers have become more discerning – and this may well be due to all the *Masterchef*-style programmes on TV – so local chefs have responded.

Last year, on a short walking holiday in Italy, I found myself attached to a group of French walkers.

(CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE).

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Christmas parties – in the country!

(Continued from facing page).

It was noticeable that every evening, they would collar the chef and quiz him or her on what they would be serving and how it would be prepared.

All three courses would be discussed, including the dessert.

After the meal, the chef would be invited out for a question and answer session

The only thing missing was marks out of 10 *a la Strictly*. High expectations such as these go some way to explaining why food in France and Italy is so good.

It's really encouraging to note that we are moving in the same direction in this country, and discerning Vale diners can definitely look forward to enjoying the result!



Peterston-Super-Ely,
Tel: 01446 760675



St Brides Major
Tel. 01656 880 224

CHRISTMAS FESTIVE EVENING MENU

2 Course £16.50 • 3 Course £22.00

Served Mon-Sat evenings 6.00-9.00pm

STARTERS

Cream of Roasted Parsnip Soup

Smoked Salmon, Cream Cheese and Chive Roulade
Wild Mushroom & Goats Cheese Tart • Ham Hock Terrine

MAINS

Roast Turkey • Braised Ox Cheeks • Sea Bass Fillets
Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni • Roasted Gammon Joint

Main courses are accompanied by golden roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetables unless stated otherwise.

DESSERTS

Baileys and White Chocolate Cheesecake • Winterberry Pavlova
Traditional Christmas Pudding • Strawberry Roulade

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GEM columnist Maria scoops business award



ABOVE:
Left to right: Awards founder Wesley Skene, Maria Leijerstam, Sara Edwards the awards host, and Alun Cairns MP for the Vale.

WORLD record holding adventurer and Vale businesswoman, Maria Leijerstam, has been recognised for her contribution to Welsh Business & Society at the South Wales Business Awards 2014.

On September 12, Maria, who writes a column for The GEM, was recognised with the honorary award, for her outstanding world record achievement of solo cycling from the edge of the Antarctic continent to the South Pole.

Maria is also equally adept in the business world with her own business Multisport Wales.

She commented: "It was wonderful to be part of the South Wales Business Awards 2014 and to see so many successful businesses.

Companies run by young entrepreneurs that have reached £1m turnover in south Wales is no longer unheard of; it is now becoming the norm.

The awards ceremony was an astute and admirable way of recognizing those who have worked tirelessly in achieving their goals that in turn has contributed to strengthening the south Wales economy."

Maria was presented with her award by Welsh Office Minister – Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale.

"Each company collecting accolades at these awards started as an idea, so it is great to see the hard work being rewarded.

"I was particularly pleased to present an award to Vale local Maria Leijerstam, who has achieved so much in so many fields," Mr Cairns said.

SIAN HAS A HAIRCUT FOR LITTLE PRINCESS!



Back before...



...Front after.

Sian's story
"I HAD BEEN thinking about having my hair cut since the end of April, but it was only recently that I decided to take the plunge and do it, especially with the return to university looming!"

"Having long hair for the past six years, I was fed up and needed a change. I had heard about a charity that uses real hair for wigs and decided to do a little research. What I found was so heartwarming I had my mind made up.

"The charity Little Princess Trust provides specialist wigs for free to children who have undergone chemotherapy, and as a consequence, have lost their hair. They require a length of seven inches, which I was more than able to provide.

"I made my appointment at The Hair Business in Cowbridge and explained to my stylist, Janine, what I would like to do. She plaited the hair in three sections so it would not get tangled in post to the charity, and got the scissors out.

"The end result was neat and tidy (I highly recommend going there!).

"If anybody can spare the hair, please consider this charity, as a child-size wig can cost up to £2,000!"

"Along with the hair donation, I have also set up a JustGiving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/Sian-Hardy/>) to raise 10 per cent of the £2,000 and have raised £143 in 5 days!"

"Please help me make the £200 by texting SLPT82 and the amount you are willing to donate (£1/£2/£3/£4/£5/£10) to 70070. Any amount will help!"

Sian Hardy, Barry

Local man's leading role at prestigious world golf congress

PROUD dad Derek Smith, Cottrell Park's general manager, reports that son Adam took a leading role at a prestigious golfing event in Australia.

On September 7, Adam presented his research at Golf Science: A World Scientific Congress of Golf on the Gold Coast.

The prestigious

event is held every two years but this was the first time it has been held outside of St Andrews or Phoenix.

It attracts the world's leading experts in golf research, strength and conditioning, biomechanics, golf health and coaching, who come together to discuss all aspects of golf science.

"There is extremely strong competition to have a paper accepted for such a recognised event, so to be asked to complete a podium presentation on his research was an incredible achievement for Adam," Mr Smith said.

Adam's presentation to delegates from around the world was on 'The Impact of Warm-Up Routines on Golf Performance – Pulse Raiser v Non Pulse Raiser'.

This was very well received, with numerous delegates showing an interest in Adam's research completed at Myerscough College – where, of course, he plays golf!

Adam is now looking to continue his research on warm-up routines, particularly with the over-50s.

Scout and Guides in Roman Ramble

TO-commemorate 25 years of Scout/Guide involvement in the Llandough Hospital Project, on a lovely, sunny Sunday, September 21, the second 'Ramble' took place – starting near the Roman fort ruins on Cold Knap.

A total of 150 Scouting/Guiding personnel took part, from Barry, the Vale, Penarth and Cardiff.

The object of the exercise was to encourage walking and healthy eating (apples and oranges were supplied by one of the sponsors).

The success was measured by the number of entrants who are looking forward to a similar event next year.

Unlike last year's event, this year the participants were to seek sponsorship and when all the money is collected, the presentation of trophies will be arranged.

The two charities that are benefit to the sponsorship are the Breast Cancer Unit at Llandough Hospital and Friends of the Heritage Coast.

Jack Hardman,
Community Liaison.

WHAT'S ON

IN BRIEF

Air concerns about buses

ON October 2 Bus Users UK and Bridgend Council are organising a Your Bus Matters event in Bridgend bus station from 10am – 2pm..

The public can meet representatives from First Cymru and staff with responsibility for transport issues from BCBC to discuss their concerns.

Boosting Velindre

ON September 26 (10am – 2pm) there is a Macmillan coffee morning (coffee, cakes, raffle, handmade gifts) at the Old Post Office cafe, Holton Road, Barry.

Barbara Entwhistle (one of the regulars) who raised £1,800 by selling chicks for Velindre, is on a mission to create and sell as many Christmas puddings as possible (chocolate orange) in aid

of Velindre.

Anyone who would like to be involved is welcome on a Monday or Thursday between 1pm – 3pm, or contact the cafe on 01446 730116.

There are drop-in sessions in the cafe on Monday – Thursday (1pm – 3pm).

"The public can meet representatives from First Cymru and staff with responsibility for transport issues from BCBC to discuss their concerns.

Choose bingo

THE management committee at Rhosneigr Community Centre, Stewart Road are recommending their bingo afternoons after a summer break, on Saturday, September 27 at the hall.

Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start. Light refreshments will be served at the half time break. All proceeds go towards hall upkeep.

Whist drives

WHIST drives restart

on the last Tuesday of the month in

Llancafn Village Hall at 7.30pm (September 30).

There is an incredible achievement for Adam," Mr Smith said.

Adam's presentation to delegates from around the world was on 'The Impact of Warm-Up Routines on Golf Performance – Pulse Raiser v Non Pulse Raiser'.

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Jack Hardman,
Community Liaison.



Cowbridge Comprehensive School

Ysgol Gyfun Y Bont Faen

Open Evening

For New Year 7 Pupils

Thursday 2nd October 2014

4.00pm - 6.30pm



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take a closer look...



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Y FRO GYMRAEG - YN FFW AC YN FFYNNU A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE IN WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Novel approach delivers affordable permanent capacity for fast-growing new primary school

An imaginative approach to building design has allowed a new Welsh-medium primary school in Barry to leap-frog over the limitations of temporary structures and be fast-tracked to the forefront of modern educational environments.

From the start of this term, pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg are benefiting from the latest in classroom layout and hi-tech learning equipment, and have gained enough permanent space to grow to its full potential in pupil numbers by 2017.

The transformation has been made possible by an investment of £2.7million from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Originally Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, which opened in September 2011 to meet rising local demand for Welsh medium education, faced the prospect of piecemeal growth through the addition of demountable classrooms as pupil numbers grew year by year.

However, this was averted by a decision of the local authority to use a standardised template school design and thereby reducing professional fees and other ancillary costs.

This is providing a new permanent structure on the same site with nursery accommodation, seven classrooms and state-of-the-art facilities for only £310,000 more than the cost of acquiring the extra pre-fabricated structures that would have been needed.

The school, which lies within the grounds of Welsh medium

comprehensive Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, had experienced faster than expected growth in demand for places. With 30 more children as of this term, and the addition of a Year Three, more space was needed urgently.

Jane Wade the council's Operations Manager for Property and Delivery explained: "We were going to have another temporary solution but I happened to read something about how schools were starting to use template designs. This made us look at a different form of delivery and we were able to have a permanent solution for much the same price as the temporary solution. It not only saved money but also allowed for a reduced programme. I believe this is the first of its kind in Wales."

The construction itself was turned into a learning experience for the children with low level 'windows' cut in the hoarding around the building site so they could see what was going on. The youngsters were also introduced to Ivor Goodsite or Ifor Saffle Saff, a character who promoted vital messages about construction site safety. The children also worked with community artist Christian Ryan to create special windows for the new school.

Mrs Roberts paid tribute to the contribution of her 13 staff, comprising five teachers and eight teaching assistants: "They have been very supportive throughout and have done an excellent job in challenging conditions. It's fantastic that we now have a brand new purpose built school with room to grow."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

ALTHOUGH still a comparatively new school – opened at the turn of the century – Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry has already established itself as one of the best comprehensives in Wales.

It featured in the top ten of Welsh secondary schools (4th place overall) and was ranked 1st in the 'Teaching' category in the Western Mail's Real Schools Guide 2014, published on August 2.

This year's A-Level and GCSE results have continued the school's winning ways.

A-Level pupils succeeded in turning in a 100% pass rate for the second year in succession, with each pupil attaining an E grade or above in two or more A Level subjects.

77% of all entries were graded at A* C.

Leading the way this year were the historians. One third of the cohort studied History and 100% of the pupils achieved a C grade or above in the subject. Quite an achievement for the department.

On the GCSE front, the results were outstanding, building on the success of last year's cohort with 96% of the pupils attaining 5 A*-C in GCSE or equivalent qualifications. Most notably, a fantastic 20% of the cohort (15 girls and 12 boys) achieved

five or more A*/A grades which included Maths and English or Welsh.

Headteacher Dr Dylan Jones commented: "The school celebrated yet another set of excellent examination results this year and saw pupils across the ability range achieving their goals, reflecting their dedication to their studies.

"I am extremely proud of the achievements of all our pupils and delighted that as a school we continue to cater for and nurture each individual.

Particular praise is due this year for the numerous pupils who achieved Distinction * in Business Studies and Music Performance BTEC courses.

Congratulations to all the pupils and staff and we wish all our pupils well in the future. Well done!"

Llwyddiant llawen Y Fro

ER dal yn ysgol gymharol newydd – wedi cychwyn ar drothwyr' mileniwm – mae Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg wedi sefydlu ei hun yn un o ysgolion uwchradd gorau Cymru.

Eleni fe'i henwyd fel y bedwaredd ysgol uwchradd orau yng Nghymru a'r gorau oll yn y categori 'Dysgu' yn ôl The Real Schools

Guide 2014, y Western Mail, ar Awst 2.

Eleni eto roedd y canlyniadau Safon Uwch a TGAU o'r radd flaenaf.

Llwyddodd disgylion Safon Uwch i gadw eu record 100% am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol. Roedd 77% o'r cofrestriau wedi eu graddio yn A* i C. Yr haneswr y oedd yn arwain eleni. Roedd traean o'r holl disgylion yn astudio Hanes a llwyddodd 100% ohonynt i gael gradd C neu yn uwch yn y pyncw – tipyn o gamp i'r aran!

Mewn TGAU neu gymhwysterau cyfwerth

mi wnaeth 96% o'r disgylion llwyddo i ennill 5 gradd A*-C. Testun balchder arbennig yw'r ffaith bod 20% o'r garfan (15 merch a 12 bachgen) wedi llwyddo i ennill pum neu fyw o raddau A*/A gan gynnwys Mathemateg a Saesneg neu Gymraeg sy'n dyst i holl ymdechioni yr adrannau.

Dyweddodd Dr Dylan Jones, pennath: "Dathlwn llwyddiant yr holl disgylion sydd wedi cyrraedd eu potential yn yr arholiadau Safon Uwch a TGAU ac sydd wedi gweithio yn ddygyn a chael eu haeddiann. "Yn y chweched

dilynodd y disgylion gyrsiau traddodiadol academaidd yn ogystal â phynchiau galwedigaethol. Mae'n rhaid cyfeirio yn benodol at lwyddiant nifer fawro o disgylion yn emill graddau Anrhwydd * mewn cyrsiau BTEC Busnes a Pherfformio Cerdoriaeth. Mae'r Fagloraeth hefyd yn parhau i fynd o nerth i nerth gyda'r disgylion i gyd yn elwio a fireinio amrywiaeth eang o sgriniau. Llongyfarchiadau i'r holl atrawon a disgylion a dymunwn yn dda i'r bobl ifanc yn y dyfodol."



Fun at Gwersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog for Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Winning ways at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg!

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Y FRO GYMRAEG - YN FFW AC YN FFYNNU

A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE IN WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

How do I find my catchment Welsh medium school..?

Go to www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, enter your postcode in 'In Your Neighbourhood' and the information appears under 'Schools & Learning', 'Welsh Primary Catchment'. Or ring the Council on 01446 700111 and ask for the Admissions Department.

Sut allaf ddarganfod ysgol Gymraeg fy nhalgyrch?
EWCH i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, rhwch eich cod post i mewn o dan 'Eich Bro' a dangosir y wybodaeth o dan y pennawdau 'Schools & Learning', 'Welsh Primary Catchment'. Fel arall ffônionwch yr Adran Dderbyn y Cyngor ar 01446 700111.

Cywion Curig /Curig Chicks



Nature trail at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, Barry.

(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 21)
**Dull newydd o
weithio'n arwain at
adeilad parhaol
fforddriadwy i ysgol
sy'n tyfu'r gyflwm**
MAE dull gwreiddiol o
ddylniù adeiladau
wedi galluogi i ysgol
gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg
newydd yn Y Barri oresgyn
rhwystrau strwythurau dros
dro a symud ymlaen i fod ar
fllaen y gad o ran
amgylcheddau addysgu
modern.

Ers dechrau'r tymor mae
disgyblion Ysgol Gymraeg Nant
Talwg yn elwa ar gynllun arloesol
yngyd hâ'r offer dysgu technolegol
diweddaraf, ac yn cael digon o le
parhaol i ehangu i'w llawn botensial
o ran nifer y disgyblion erbyn 2017.

Mae'r trawsnewid wedi bod yn
bosib drwy fuddsoddiol o £2.7
milwn gan raglen Ysgolion yr 21ain
Ganrif Llywodraeth Cymru a
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Yn wreiddiol, roedd Ysgol
Gymraeg Nant Talwg, a agorodd ei
drysau yn mis Medi 2011 er mwyn
boddoli'n gallu cynyddol am addysg
cyfrwng Cymraeg, yr wynebu'r
posiblwyddol o dyfu fesul tipyn drwy
ychwanegu ystafelloedd dosbarth
symudol wrth i nifer y disgyblion
gymyddu flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn.

Fodd bynnag, caffod hyn ei osgoi
yn sgîl penderfyniad yr awdurdod
lloleu i ddefnyddio templed cymlluni
ysgolion safonol a thrwy hynny
leihau flioedd proffesiynol a chostau
atogol eraill.

Mae hyn yn darparu strwythur
parhaol newydd ar y safle, gyda lle i'r
dosbarth meithrin, saith ystafell

ddosbarth a chyflleusterau cwbl fodern
am ddim ond £310,000 i fwyl na
chost prynu strwythurau dros dro
ychwanegol, a fyddai wedi bod yn
angenreidiol.

Mae'r ysgol, sydd ar dir Ysgol
Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, wedi profi
twf cytñ na'r disgwyl o ran y galw am
lefyd. Gyda 30 yn rhagor o blant
wedi cychwyn y tymor hwn, roedd
angen rhagor o le ar frys.

Esboniodd Jane Wade, Rheolwr

Gweithrediadau'r cyngor ar gyfer
Eiddo a Chyflawni: "Roeddent ni'n
mynd i gael ateb dros dro arall ond fe
wnes i ddiwyddiwr aelod rhybwbeth
am sut roedd ysgolion yn dechrau
defnyddio cylliniua templed.

Gwnaeth hyn i ni edrych ar ffodd
wahanol o gylawnni ac roedd posib i
ni gael ateb parhaol am yr un pris
mwy neu lai a'r ateb dros dro. Mae
nid yn unig wedi arbed arian, ond

hefyd wedi lleihau'r amser sydd ei
angen ar gyfer dylunio, cyllunio a
chyflwyno'r prosiect. Rydw i'n credu

mae hwn yw'r cynnllun cyntaf o'i fath
yng Nghymru."

Cafodd y gwaith adeiladu ei hun ei
droi'n broffidysgus i'r plant, gyda
'fenestri' lefel isel wedi'u torri yr y
byrrdau o amgylch y safle adeiladau,
fel eu bod yn gallu gweild beth oedd

yn diwyddyd y tu mewn. Hefyd,

cyflwynwyd y plant i Ifor Saffle Saff,

sef cymherd a oedd yn hybu

negeseon allweddol am ddiogelwch

safle adeiladau. Bu'r plant yn

gweithio gyda'r artist cymunedol

Christian Ryan hefyd, i greu ffenestrâu

arbennig ar gyfer yr ysgol newydd.

Aeth Mrs Roberts ati i dalu

teyrniedig i gyfraniad ei 13 aelod o

staff, sy'n cynnwys pump athro ac

athro yngnorwyd y ddysgu.

Dywedodd: "Mae'n nhw wedi bod yn

fefnogol iawn o'r dechrau ac wedi

gwneud gwaith rhagorol o dan

amodau heriol. Mae'n ffantastic ein

bod ni'n mynd i gael ysgol newydd

sbôn a phwrpasol, gyda lle i dyfu."

GIVING parents of pre-school children an insight into Welsh language education is one of the aims of Ysgol Gymraeg St Curig's most recent projects.

Called Cywion Curig (Curig Chicks) it's an initiative to welcome potential parents into the school community, providing a playgroup facility for the toddlers while parents can chat over a coffee.

Cywion Curig, named by two Year 6 pupils Georgia Jones and Lowri Thomas, meet twice a week, on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. It's run by St Curig school staff and parents are welcome to drop in for the entire session of just part of it.

Headteacher Siân Owen said: "Cywion Curig has been warmly welcomed by many parents. It's an opportunity to become more involved in school life and for parents to see for themselves what Welsh language education is like. Let's not forget, for non-Welsh speaking parents, entrusting their children's education to the Welsh medium sector is a big leap of faith.

We appreciate that – and it pays dividends. "I'd like to encourage anyone who has young children or who cares for young children, to come along. It's free of charge and is our way of introducing parents to bilingualism. The children have fun through playing, chanting and singing. But importantly they also hear the Welsh language spoken in a positive and happy learning environment."

BENEFITS OF WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

"I chose Welsh medium education to give our children the opportunity of learning two languages without realising it!" **C Lovejoy, Llantwit Major.**

"Ysgol Dewi Sant now gives us Welshness at the heart of the community." **J Rees, Llantwit Major.**

"Welsh medium education stimulates learning in other subjects and languages." **G Jones, Llantwit Major.**

Setting some solid Welsh foundations in Llantwit Major



Building solid foundations for life. Photograph courtesy of Colorfoto, Photography and Marketing Specialists

OPENING Llantwit Major's very first Welsh medium school in 2011 was a positive and much-needed move for the town.

For too long, parents wanting to educate their children through the medium of Welsh were faced with sending their children out of catchment to either Cowbridge or Barry.

But parental demand and the lack of spare places in neighbouring schools was such that the Vale of Glamorgan Council invested in a brand new school.

Named Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, it commemorates Llantwit Major's religious heritage as a focal point of Christianity for the early Welsh saints.

Phase One of the project saw the opening of the school with a nursery/reception class of 12 pupils in a demountable classroom on the site of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

In 2013, the demand was such that an extension was added for years 1 and 2 pupils. Next month, Phase Three will begin with foundations dug to accommodate a 210-place school and nursery for pupils of 3-11 years in a purpose built, state-of-the-art building.

The school will be constructed along the pioneering format of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg in Barry, using a standardised template school design specially created to meet educational needs in the 21st century.

Capital funding for the project has been made available through the 21st Century Schools Programme which is 50 per cent funded by the Welsh Government. The new school will be open in September 2015 and will form the first part of the Llantwit Learning Community.

Helen Jennings, Headteacher, said: "It's wonderful seeing everything coming together in a thriving school. This school is here because parents have wanted it. Demand for Welsh medium education has been on the rise across Wales and the Vale and I am delighted that the Council and Welsh Government have responded so positively and appropriately to that demand. The vast majority of pupils come from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds and it is amazing how quickly they become bilingual."

"From the foundations of our new building, we will continue to develop a strong community based school

which lays down solid learning foundations for each and every one of our pupils."

Sylfeini Cymraeg cadarn yn Llanilltud Fawr

ROEDD agor ysgol Llanilltud Fawr yn 2011 yn gam positif i'r dre.

I gael addysg Gymraeg cyn hynny roedd rhaid anfon plant allan o'u talcylch, naill ai i'r Bont-faen neu i'r Barri.

Ond, o ganlyniad i'r gofyn am addysg Gymraeg oddi wrth rieni a'r diffyg o lefydd gwag yn yr ysgolion Cymraeg eraill, mi wnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg fuddsoddi mewn ysgol newydd sbôn.

Mae Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant wedi'i henwi i gofnodi treftaethad Llanilltud Fawr fel canolfan gristnogol bwysig i'n seintiau cynnar.

Fel Cam 1 o'r prosiect agorwyd yr ysgol gyda dosbarth meithrin/derbyn o 12 disgybl ar dir Ysgol Gyfun Llanilltud Fawr.

Ynherwyd y galw cynyddol ychwanegwyd estyniad yn 2013. Mis yna bydd cychwyn ar drydedd rhan y cyllun, sef godos sylfeini ar gyfer ysgol 210 lle gyda meithrin, ar gyfer plant 3-11 oed, mewn adeilad newydd pŵrpasol a pharhaol.

Caff i'r ysgol ei hadieilad yn ôl format arloesol Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg yn Y Barri, gan ddefnyddio templed o gyllunol ysgol fydd yn addas ar gyfer anghenion addysgiadol yr uned ganrif ar hugain.

Daw'r cyflafar ar gyfer y prosiect drwy raglen ysgolion yr uned ganrif ar hugain, yr ariennir hanner cant y cam gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Bydd y ysgol newydd yn agor ym mis Medi 2015 i greu rhan gynfaol Cymuned Ddysgu Llanilltud Fawr.

Dywedodd y penrhitaeth, Helen Jennings: "Mae'w ychwanegu i'r ysgol popeth yn dod at i gilydd mewn ysgol sy'n ffynnu. Mae'r ysgol yma gan fod rhieni wedi ei heisiau. Mae'r galw am addysg Gymraeg wedi cynyddu ar draws Cymru ac yma yn y Fron a dwi'n falch iawn fod y Cyngor a Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymateb mor gadarnhaol i'r gofyn. Daw'r ganran helaeth o'n disgylion o deuluuedd di-Gymraeg ac mae'n rhyfodol pa mor fflynn y maent da i fod i dyd yng Nghymru.

"Wrth osod sylfeini ein adeilad newydd, mi wnaeth barhau i ddatblygu ysgol gymunedol gref gyda sylfeini addysgiadol eang ar gyfer pob un o'n disgylion."

Y FRO GYMRAEG - YN FFW AC YN FFYNNU

A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE IN WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION



An Apple (computer) a day...

FOLLOWING substantial investment, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge has recently completed an exciting new IT project, which transforms the way in which pupils are taught.

Around £30,000 has been spent on installing an Apple TV system into classrooms and in developing a new IT suite in the previously unutilised roof space of the school.

The building work has been cleverly designed and supervised by governor Mike Pritchett, an architect by profession with EPT Partnership in Cardiff. Work was carried out over the summer and also included remodelling of a substantial area of the ground floor to create much needed additional and flexible teaching space.

The investment in the Apple IT system, complete with i-Pads for pupils, will enable teachers to deliver lessons, across all subjects of the curriculum, using the latest technology.

The school will access Hwb Plus, the all Wales learning platform, funded by the Welsh Government. Using Microsoft Sharepoint, this allows pupils and teachers to upload and store work securely via cloud technology.

Owain Saunders-Jones, chair of the

school governors resource committee, said: "The impact of our investment in IT at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg will be enormous. Children will become competent with IT through using it, practically, in all aspects of their schoolwork to enhance their learning. Each pupil will create his or her own webpage and will be able to communicate with the teacher via a school-based email account. The potential is truly amazing and will transform the experience of learning, equipping our pupils with excellent IT skills."

Buddsoddiad yn dwyn ffrwyth

YN dilyn buddsoddiad sylwedol, mae Ysgol Iolo Morganwg yn Y Bont-faen newydd gwblhau prosiect Technoleg Gwybodaeth bell-gyrhaeddol sy'n trawsnewid y ffodd y bydd plant yn cael eu haddysgu.

Mae oddeutu £30,000 wedi ei wario yn gosod system Teledu Apple i mewn i ddisbarthiadau a chreu ystafell Technoleg Gwybodaeth holol newydd yn nentwyr yr ysgol.

Dylanwyd a goruchwylwyd y gwaith adeiladu gan Mike Pritchett, aelod o fwrdd

Ilywodraethol yr ysgol sydd hefyd yn bensaer gyda Partneriaeth EPT, yng Nghaerdydd. Cwblhawyd y gwaith, oedd yn cynnwys ail-strwythur rhan helaeth o'r brif adeilad, yn brydlon dros wyliau'r haf, gan greu dosbarthiadau dysgu ychwanegol.

Bydd yr ysgol yn gweud defnydd o Hwb Plws, plットform dysgu Cymru sydd wedi'i ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Bydd Microsoft Sharepoint, yn galluogi disgylion ac athrawon i uwchlwytho a chadw gwaith yn ddiogel yn y cwmwlwch technoleg ddiweddaraf.

Bydd yr ysgol yn gweud defnydd o cyfarwyddo gyda thechnoleg gwybodaeth drwy ei ddefnyddio ar draws holl sbectrwm en gwaith ysgol er mwyn ehangu eu dysgu. Bydd pob plentyn yn creu gwefan ei hun ac yn galu cysylltu â'r atyre drwy e-bost. Mae i'nsiption yn anhygoel a bydd yn gweud newid y prifiad o ddisgyll ac yn rhoi sgliliau technoleg gwybodaeth gwych i'n disgylion.

POSITIVE MOVES DUE TO PARENTAL DEMAND...

YSGOL Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant in Barry is set to double in size, due to the growth in popularity for Welsh medium education seen in the Vale, especially over the last decade.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has approved a substantial investment programme of around £3,700,000 to ensure sufficient Welsh medium school places to meet parental demand. Capital funding for the project is available through the 21st Century Schools programme, which is 50% funded by the Welsh Government.

Currently, Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant and English medium Oakfield Primary School are located on a shared site in the Gibbonsdown area of Barry.

The project will involve building a brand new school for Oakfield on the existing site of the schools. Their vacated building will then be remodelled to accommodate a two form entry school for Gwaun y Nant, increasing its pupil capacity from 210 places

to 420 places. The school will grow gradually with 60 places in the reception class each year. In addition there will be a larger nursery area within the school.

The project will significantly improve the teaching and learning environments for both Gwaun y Nant and Oakfield and provide two schools that meet the educational needs of the 21st century.

Building work is due to start on the new Oakfield Primary in November to allow the school to move into its new premises in September 2015. Start and finish times for the two primary schools will be staggered to avoid traffic congestion.

Headteacher Rhidian Lloyd said: "This is an exciting time for Welsh medium education in the Vale. The growth in parental demand for Welsh education seen over the last decade has been astounding. I'm certain that the expansion of Ysgol Gwaun y Nant will have a positive impact on the Welsh language in Barry. New teaching posts will be created alongside the increased pupil intake, which has both economic and employment benefits. I'm looking forward

to the challenges ahead and to welcoming even more pupils to the new, enhanced Gwaun y Nant."

Adeiladu ar dwf addysg Gymraeg

MAE Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant yn Y Barri ar fin cael ei dybli mewn maint oherwydd poblogrwydd addysg Gymraeg a welwyd yn y Fro, yn edwraig dros y degawd diwethaf.

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi cynto buddsoddiad sylwedol o deuddeg £3,700,000 i sicrhau digon o lefydd mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Gymraeg i ateb y galw gan riem. Daw'r arian cyfalaif o raglen ysgolion yn yr uned ganrif ar hagian, yr ariennir 50 y cant gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Ar hyn o bryd mae Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant ac ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Saesneg Oakfield wedi'u lleoli ar safle ar y cyd yn ardal Gibbonsdown o'r Barri.

Bydd y cynllun newydd yn

golygu adeiladu ysgol holol newydd i Oakfield ar yr un safle. Bydd ei hen adeiladau yn cael eu ail-strwythur i greu ysgol daelodbarth pob blwyddyn i Gwaun y Nant, gan gynyddu'r llefydd o 210 i 420. Bydd yr ysgol yn tyfu'r raddol gyda 60 o lefydd yn y meithrin pob blwyddyn.

Bydd gwaith adeiladu Oakfield yn dechrau ym mis Tachwedd i alluogi'r ysgol i symud i mewn i'r adeilad newydd ym mis Medi 2015. Bydd yr amseroedd dechrau a gorffen yn wahanol ar gyfer y ddwy ysgol i osgoi problemau trafniadiet.

Meddai'r penneth Rhidian Lloyd: "Mae'n amser cyffrous i addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg yn Y Fro. Mae'r twf a welwyd yma dros y degawd diwethaf wedi bod yn anhygoel. Ryw'n sicr y caiff ehangu Ysgol Gwaun y Nant effaith arthrol ar yr iaith Gymraeg yn Y Barri. Byddwn angen mwya o aethrawon ac yn derbyn mwya o blant, sy'n golygu swyddi newydd a buddiannau economaidd. Ryw'n disgwyd ymlaen at y siatlasau sydd o'n blaenau ac yn enwedig i groesawu mwya o blant i Ysgol Gwaun y Nant ar ei newydd gwedd."

Afiaith Sant Baruc

A NEW group for former pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc was established in March 2013 by Delyn Griffith and Gwenno Huws (former headteacher and deputy headteacher at the school.)

Both Delyn and Gwenno were very frustrated that there were no opportunities for young people to socialise through the medium of Welsh after they left education.

And so they set up AFIAITH (Adfer Fy IAITH – Restore my Language) as a means of providing opportunities to re-engage with the Welsh language and a means of reuniting old friendships.

It is rather like a school reunion but without the uniform or the rules! To date it has attracted over 80 members and is going from strength to strength. The meetings are totally informal with the main emphasis on having a good night out! Since its inception, the group has raised almost £1,000 for charity and there are plans afoot to organise a range of activities including a weekend trip to Llangrannog.

There is no need to worry if you haven't spoken Welsh for years – everybody worries about this – you will soon feel at home and you are guaranteed a fun evening.

Furthermore, if you now have children of your own who are pupils in any of the Welsh schools in the area, imagine how much more you will be able to help them with their education if you've got more confidence to speak Welsh yourself!

All in all, a win-win situation!
Our next meeting is a skittles night on Friday, October 10 in Barry Rugby Club at 8pm. All welcome...www.facebook.com/groups/AFIAITH/

YM mis Mawrth 2013, caffodd grŵp newydd sbon ei sefydlu i gyn-disgylion Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc gan Delyn Griffith a Gwenno Huws (cyn benaeth a dirprwy yr ysgol.)

Teimlai Delyn a Gwenno yn rhwystredig iawn nad oedd cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc gymdeithas yn y Gymraeg ar ôl iddynt adael yr ysgol a roedd hyn ddraenen yn eu hystlys. Felly sefydlwyd AFIAITH sef A(dfer) F(y) IAITH fel modd o

greu cyfle i ail gyfarfod â hen frindiau ac ailygdyio yn y Gymraeg.

Mae'n debyg i aduniad ysgol – ond heb wisg ysgol a heb reolau! Mae'r syniad yn mynd o nerth i nerth ac erbyn hyn mae dros 80 o gynddysgylion wedi ymuno gyda'r grwp.

Mae'r nosweithiau yn hollo anfurfiol gyda'r pwyslais ar fwynhau! Ers ei sefydlu, mae'r grŵp wedi codi bron i £1,000 tuag at elusennau ac mae cynlluniau ar droed i drefnu amrywiad o weithgareddau gan gynnwys trip penywthnos i Wersyll Llangrannog. Does dim angen poeni os nad ydych wedi siarad Cymraeg ers dyddiau ysgol (mae pawb yn poeni am hyn) – cewch eich synny pa mor gwyflyn y daw'r cwbl yn ym!

Mae wir yn brofiad hyfryd i ddi fyny gyda phawb mewn awyrgylch anfurfiol. Ac os oes gennych blant eich hunain erbyn hyn sydd yn mynd i un o ysgolion Cymraeg yr ardal, byddwch yn medru eu helpu nhw lawer yn well ar ôl ichi ymarfer ychydig ar y Gymraeg eich hunain!

Bydd y cyfarfod nesaf sef NOSON SGĪTLS ar Hydref 10fed am 8pm yng Nghylch Rygbi'r Barri – croeso i bawb.
www.facebook.com/groups/AFIAITH/

"I was concerned that I would be the only parent that didn't speak Welsh and that my son's pace of learning would be behind his English speaking peers. This has not been the case and at the age of 6 he reads well in both languages." S Willis, Llantwit Major

"I had concerns regarding my daughter's ability to learn the terminology required in science and maths, but these have been dispelled, as she is able to explain to me what words mean and it's amazing!" E Griffiths, Llantwit Major

"Welsh medium education is all about supporting and building strong confident individuals. I love listening to my children speaking Welsh and have picked up a few words myself." Parent of St Curig, Barry

"My husband and I are English and as a linguist I was keen for my children to develop an ear for languages. It's wonderful to hear them speak Welsh fluently – they've pick it up so easily and quickly." Francine Ruckledge, Cowbridge

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Y FRO GYMRAEG - YN FFW AC YN FFYNNU

A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE IN WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

MEET THE HEADTEACHERS!



RHIAN ANDREW joined Ysgol Sant Baruc, Barry as head in September 2010. She is married with a two-year-old child and another on the way in December!

Rhian enjoys walking and spending time with her family. The school is located on St Paul's Avenue, Barry and has 222 pupils.

What three words/phrases best describe your school?

Welcomeing,

inclusive, dedicated.

What's great about your school?

The school has a wonderful ethos. We are a very happy school where staff, pupils and parents have a very good relationship.

What are you most proud of?

The pupils' ability to speak an excellent standard of Welsh, even though they are from English speaking homes. The staff give so much to their pupils to enable them bilingual.

What advice would you give to parents



considering Welsh education for their children?

Go for it! Being able to speak two languages fluently is a gift and a huge advantage for future employment. Learning a language as a child is far easier than learning a language as an adult.

"I won't be able to help my child with homework" is a common barrier to Welsh medium education for non-Welsh speaking parents. How do you answer that?

The majority of our pupils/families are in this situation. Most homework tasks are sent home with an English explanation and pupils are encouraged to complete task independently as the work is a consolidation of the skills taught in class. Parental support and encouragement to complete tasks is what is important.

What's your favourite Welsh word?
Bendigedig (brilliant).



HELEN JENNINGS was born in Barry to Welsh speaking parents and was one of many pupils who had to travel to Pontypridd for receive her secondary education through the medium of Welsh.

She was asked to become acting headteacher of Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant in April 2011 whilst also headteacher at another school before becoming full time head at Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant in April 2014. She is married with two grown up sons.

What three words best describe your school?

Inclusive, nurturing and exciting.

What are you most proud of?

Establishing a successful Welsh medium primary school in Llanwit Major that provides parents with the choice of having their children educated through the medium of Welsh within their own community.

In that time we have also seen pupils who are predominantly from non Welsh speaking homes becoming fluent in both languages.

What advice would you give to parents considering Welsh education for their children?

Speak to parents who have already taken that decision and make an appointment visit a Welsh medium school to see for yourself.

"I won't be able to help my child with homework" is a common barrier to Welsh medium education for non-Welsh speaking parents. How do you answer that?

Almost all of our children come from English speaking homes. The school is fully aware of these concerns and so make every effort to ensure that parents are able to assist their children with homework tasks. We offer support and even Welsh lessons.

What's your favourite Welsh word?
Popyt-Ping (microwave).



children?

Most of the parents choosing to have their child educated through the medium of Welsh want their children to be able to do something that they cannot. Learning to speak Welsh is much easier when you are a child and you are providing your child with additional skills and opportunities.

"I won't be able to help my child with homework" is a common barrier to Welsh medium education for non-Welsh speaking parents. How do you answer that?

We work with parents to ensure that they feel a part of their children's education. We hold additional parents' evenings where literacy and numeracy strategies are shared and discussed.

We provide bilingual pamphlets on developing reading skills and hold weekly parents' sessions 'Amser Stori' (Time for a Story) and reading workshops using story sacks. Our literacy and numeracy homework challenges aim to make learning fun and allows everyone to be involved.

What's your favourite Welsh word?
Buddugolaethus (victorious).

DR DYLAN JONES is the head of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry and has been in post since Day One. He is married with two grown up children. The school now has 834 pupils.

What three words best describe your school?
Inclusive. Busy.
Ambitious.

What's great about your school?

The way we aspire to support everybody on their way to fulfilling their potential. This means giving all pupils the best that we can

offer.

What are you most proud of?

The way the school has gone from nothing to a nationally respected establishment in such a short time. We weren't in existence at the turn of the century, but now everybody knows about Bro Morgannwg!

What advice would you give to parents considering Welsh education for their children?

Do it! You won't regret it!

What's your favourite Welsh word?
Adra (home).



MENNA ROBERT, headteacher at Ysgol Nant Talwg, was brought up in Mold, Flintshire and she was a pupil at Ysgol Glanrafon and Ysgol Maes Garmon. While in school her love of performing was quite evident and at a young age she would be a keen competitor in Eisteddfodau.

She went to Bangor University to study Welsh and Drama. In college she became lead vocalist with a pop band and she also did a lot of radio and television work.

At one point she presented a gardening programme on S4C! She even presented the Royal Welsh Show with Ray Gravell in 1985.

Eventually, she settled down to live in Cardiff and started her teaching career in the Vale of Glamorgan.

By now she has taught generations of Barry children and she is



very proud to have been part of the success story of Welsh education in the town.

Trivia
SHE has two grown up sons who are her 'greatest achievement'.

Her favourite films are *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*.

She was a Bay City Roller fan in her teens but now enjoys the more sophisticated sound of Coldplay.

She enjoys travelling, socialising and reading. Her Friday night tipple is a large G&T. Her perfect dance partner would be Liam Neeson. Top of her bucket list is Glastonbury and seeing the Northern Lights.

She intends to have a gap year when she is 70. The best piece of advice she received was "Let go and let God." Three words to describe her: generous, gregarious, loyal.

Favourite Quote
"JUST think how many people on the Titanic had refused the dessert trolley?!"



IONA EDWARDS joined Ysgol Pen-y-Garth as a deputy headteacher in 1999. In January 2003 she became acting headteacher and was appointed headteacher in September 2004.

She is married with two boys aged 18 and 12. Iona is passionate about all kinds of music, sings in a choir and enjoys reading and eating out.

The school is located on Redlands Road and has 390 pupils on its books.

What three words/phrases best describe your school?

Happy, caring, passionate about learning
What's great about your school?

We value each child as an individual and make sure that each one experiences success.

What are you most proud of?

Our pupils – past and present especially when we hear about their wonderful successes.

What advice would you give to parents considering Welsh education for their children?



Join Welsh mother and toddler groups as early as possible and join in the fun of learning Welsh with your child.

"I won't be able to help my child with homework" is a common barrier to Welsh medium education for non-Welsh speaking parents. How do you answer that?

That used to be true 20 years ago, but we've learnt a lot since then and we've finally got it right. Homework should be an opportunity to become independent learners and should be based on the learning experienced in school.

There is also an unbelievable amount of support available on child-friendly websites, because homework after all should be set for children and not parents! From nearly 30 years experience, it's the parents' encouragement, the support and the opportunities they give children, that matters.

What's your favourite Welsh word?

Cwtsh.



RHIAN WILLIAMS joined Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Cowbridge as head in January this year. She is married with two children aged 11 and 6.

Rhian enjoys spending time with her family and baking. The school is located on Broadway and has 235 pupils on its books.

What three words best describe your school?
Growing, glowing and enabling.

What are you most proud of?

Being a former pupil, to come back as headteacher is a privilege and honour. I have many fond memories of school life at Ysgol Iolo and I'm excited that I now have an opportunity to work as part of a team to ensure that all children who pass through the doors have a happy time here and achieve to their full potential.

What's your favourite Welsh word?
Gin a Thonic(!)...
Ysbrydoledig (inspiring).

Schools will ensure that parents are able to support their children with their work to the best of their ability and will provide guidance and support as their children progress through Welsh medium education.

All homework will come home with bilingual instructions so that parents understand what is being asked of their child.

They can support through discussion and planning of the task and ask their child to talk them through the work upon completion.

Parents will be able to listen to their children reading, encouraging the child to explain what is happening in the book, talk about the characters and what might happen next.

This is an ideal opportunity for parents to start learning Welsh with their children!

What's your favourite Welsh word?
Dathlu (celebrate) – we celebrate all achievements at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

Y FRO GYMRAEG - YN FFW AC YN FFYNNU

A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE IN WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Ysgol Pen-y-Garth gets a gold star for PE

YSGL Pen-y-Garth has finished top of the class after their work in PE received a glowing report.

Sport Wales and the Association for Physical Education (afPE) are championing schools which recognise the importance of PE.

ActiveMark Cymru endorses schools that are committed to developing high quality physical education and school sport and for promoting the benefits of physical activity.

Chair of Sport Wales, Professor Laura McAllister, said: "We believe that schools play an essential role in building a Wales in which children are hooked on sport for life. We know the importance of being active to the future life chances of a young person, and that schools are central to providing every child with the physical skills and confidence to take part and enjoy."

Mr Owain Jones, the PE Co-ordinator at Ysgol Pen-y-Garth said: "We've worked hard this year on increasing pupil participation in sports by making strong links with outside agencies such as the Urdd and Dragon Sports, ensuring that PE is taught through a variety of fun activities to a high standard and identifying key areas to improve. The active mark is a celebration for all of our hard work here at Ysgol Pen-y-Garth."

Mrs Iona Edwards, headteacher, added: "There is strong evidence that children who receive high quality physical education within curriculum time, build a firm basis for future participation and achievement – and also do better in the rest of their schooling. At Pen-y-Garth we are very fortunate to have excellent sports facilities and members of staff who willingly volunteer to provide a variety of sporting experiences during and after school for our pupils."

Seren aur i Ysgol Pen-y-Garth

LLWYDDODD Ysgol Gymraeg Pen-y-Garth ym Mhenarth i orffen ar frig y yn ystod ac ar ôl oriau ysgol."

Useful contacts/Manylion Cyswllt

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant, Barry, 01446 421723; www.ysgolgwaunynant.co.uk; @gwaunynant.

Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, Barry, 01446 709585; @nanttalgwg.

Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, Barry, 01446 735595; www.ysgolsantbaruc.co.uk; @ysgolsantbaruc.

Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, Barry, 01446 744222; www.ysgolgyraegsantcurig.com; @ysgsantcurig1.

Ysgol Gymraeg Pen-y-Garth, Penarth, 029 2070 0262; Education (Rhian Thomas);

dosbarth wrth i'w gwaith addysg gorfforol dderbyn adroddiad campus.

Chwaraeon Cymru a'r Gyndeithas ar gyfer Addysg Gorfforol (afPE) sydd wrth gefn y cyllun arbennig.

Mae MarcActif Cymru yn rhoi sêl ei fendif i ysgolion sy'n ymrwymedig i gyrrhaeddad uchel mewn addysg gorfforol a chwaraeon o fewn ysgolion ac am hybu manteision addysg gorfforol.

Dwyeddodd Caderyrdd Chwaraeon Cymru, Yr Athro Laura McAllister: "Credwn fod gan ysgolion rôl hanfodol i chwarae i greu Cymru sy'n llawn o blant fydd yn dwli ar chwaraeon am oes. Rydym yn gwybod pa mor bwysig yw bod yn heini i wella cyfeleodd bywyd person ifanc, a bod gan ysgolion ran ganolog i ddysgu sgiliau corfforol i bob plentyn, ynghyd â magu'r hyder ynddynt i gymryd ran ac i fwyndu."

Ychwanegodd Owain Jones, cydlynned addysg gorfforol Ysgol Pen-y-Garth: "Rydyn wedi gweithio'n galon eleni a gynyddu'r nifer o blant sy'n cymryd rhan mewn chwaraeon drwy gweithiadau cryf gydag asianteithau allan, fel yr Urdd a Dragon Sports. Rydym yn sicrhau fod addysg gorfforol yn cael ei ddysgu i safonau uchel drwy amryw o weithgareddau sy'n llawn hwyl, gan edrych am lefydd i wella. Mae derbyw y MarcActif yn dyst i'r gwaith caled sy'n digwydd yma yn Ysgol Pen-y-Garth."

Meddai'r penneth Iona Edwards: "Mae yna brwaf cryf fod plant sy'n derbyn addysg gorfforol o'r ansawdd orau o fewn amser cwricwlwm yn gosod sylfaen dda i ddifodol ble mae addysg gorfforol yn parhau i chwarae rôl bwysig yn eu bywydau – yn ogystal maent hefyd yn gweineud yn well gyda gweddill eu addysg. Rydym yn fodus i gael cyfeleoddau chwaraeon gwych yma'n Mhen-y-Garth, ynghyd ag athrawon ym' barod i ddarparu ystod eang o brofiadau chwaraeon i'n disgylion,"

Iona Edwards, headteacher, added: "There is strong evidence that children who receive high quality physical education within curriculum time, build a firm basis for future participation and achievement – and also do better in the rest of their schooling. At Pen-y-Garth we are very fortunate to have excellent sports facilities and members of staff who willingly volunteer to provide a variety of sporting experiences during and after school for our pupils."

Seren aur i Ysgol Pen-y-Garth

LLWYDDODD Ysgol Gymraeg Pen-y-

Garth ym Mhenarth i orffen ar frig y yn ystod ac ar ôl oriau ysgol."

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Cowbridge; 01446 772358; www.ysgoliolmorganwg.co.uk; @ysgoliolo.

Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, Llantrisant Major, 01446 792 368; www.ysgolgyraegdewisant.co.uk.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Barry; 01446 450280; www.bromorganwg.org.uk; @YGBroMorganwg.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Caerdydd a'r Fro); 029 2063 5684; www.urdd.org; @UrddCaerdyddFro.

07792 959868; www.meithrin.co.uk; MudiadMeithrin.

Menter Iaith Bro Morgannwg, 029 2068 9888; www.mentercaerdydd.org/en/pagethe-vale; @MIBroMorganwg.

Welsh for Adults Centre, 029 2087 4710; www.cardiff.ac.uk/learnwelsh; @LearningWelsh.

Cyngor Gwyliau Cymru (Caerdydd a'r Fro); 029 2063 5684; www.urdd.org; @UrddCaerdyddFro.

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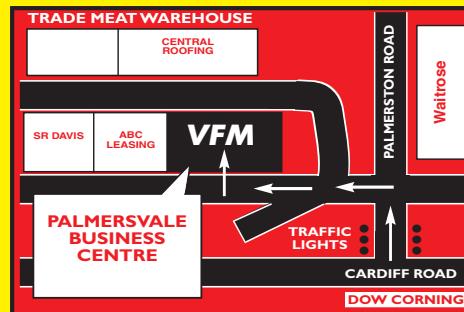
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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

So go ahead and write to us, we're here to listen. Those who families,

Rest in peace Rhoose library?

FOR those who have not had the standard response letter from Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, on the plan to turn Rhoose Library over to volunteers, here is the executive summary.

1) The council needs to save money.

2) Closing a library makes the council look really bad. The council wants to be fair.

So the council have decided to throw Rhoose Library under the bus.

Not closing it straight away, just getting rid of the librarians and then waiting for the crunch.

This is what Coun Moore means by keeping a library "open" as a community library. One without librarians.

3) Don't bother Coun Moore with awkward questions, such as:

Post Office anger

INTELLIGENCE that MP Alun Cairns is angry at the prospect of the closure of the post office at Lloyds Pharmacy in Highlight Park, Barry.

Has he considered that his Tory Government's privatisation mania and sell-off to the highest bidder of our national assets like the Royal Mail, supported by their partners the LibDems, might have something to do with the loss of our local community services?

As he has invariably voted for the divisive policies of the UK Government, I for one, no longer invest any credence in his words or his expressed anger.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

Music festival comes of age in Cowbridge

THERE was a buzz of excitement surrounding Cowbridge Music Festival this year and the feeling that after five years it had really come of age.

It ended last Saturday as it had begun, with exquisite playing by a group of fine musicians. Septura, a septet of Britain's leading brass players, made the most of the excellent acoustics of Holy Cross Church, their transcriptions of Baroque and Romantic music delighting a large audience.

Musicians from all over Europe, from Iceland to Bulgaria, had made this the most successful festival to date. Among them were a number of Welsh musicians, including pianist Llŷr Williams, tenor Elgan Llŷr Thomas and soprano Menna Cazel Davies, whose performances were truly memorable.

From the excellent London-based swing band, King Candy and the Sugar Push, to the internationally renowned



KING CANDY.

Chiaroscuro String Quartet, the festival broadened its appeal with a rich variety of music.

The Bulgarian musicians, Tri I Dve, well known in Cowbridge, were a huge hit with the schools, their outreach concerts and workshops reaching 1,200 children in Cowbridge, Barry and Llanwit Major.

The organisers are greatly appreciative of the audiences and sponsors who made this year's festival such a success.

Andrew Elliott

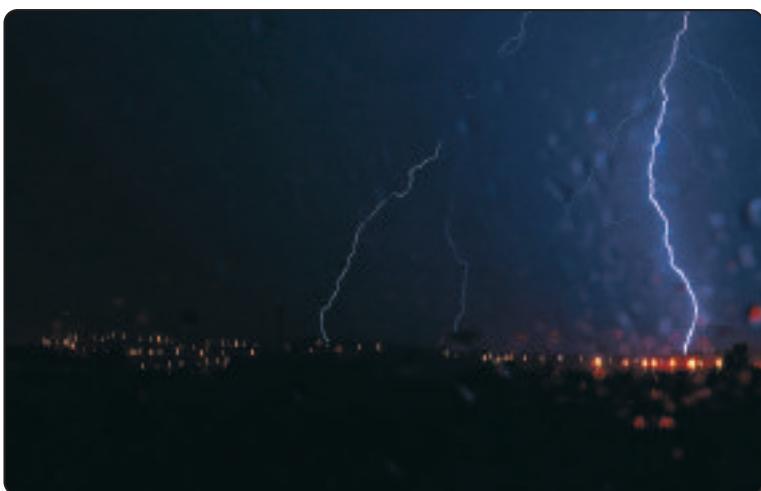
LIGHTNING STRIKES MORE THAN TWICE!

LAST Thursday night, September 18, Barry was assailed by a barrage of thunder and lightning.

It went on for some time and GEM readers were able to capture some of the spectacular moments as the electricity flashed across the sky.

Our thanks to Holly Ruthven, Jac Osborne and Robert White for their vivid photographs.

If you have captured a special image, The GEM would like to hear from you. Please email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk attaching the image and including a caption.



ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH by HOLLY RUTHVEN



ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH by JAC OSBORNE.



ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH by ROBERT WHITE.

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THE start of the First World War was commemorated in flowers by members of the local community in St Peter's Church, Rhoose and St Curig's Church, Porthkerry.

Beautiful displays and floral arrangements came from the WI, Darby and Joan, the Mothers' Union and Rhws Primary School among others.

The personal stories of church members' grandfathers who served in the armed forces were particularly moving, especially our very own

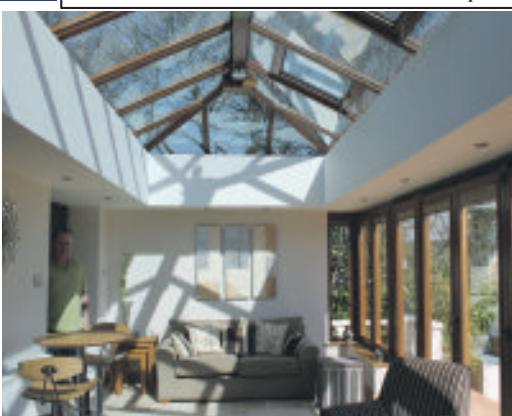
'War Horse', who served in the cavalry. The most exciting moment of the week was the visit of children from Rhws School to St Peter's,

who were fascinated by the artifacts and stories. Their artwork was a highlight for everyone who visited the church. MP


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WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO REPLACE FASCIAS AND SOFFITS?

Once fitted, PVC-U roofline products such as fascia boards and soffits need no maintenance, giving them a huge advantage over timber. At Securahome, a costly mistake we see homeowners make is to leave it too late to install PVC fascias and soffits. If your timber roofline is basically in good shape, you can save money by opting for an over cap. This involves fitting a 9mm fascia board on top of the original timbers. Once the PVC is overlays the wood, the timbers are shielded from the elements. As the board is only ever capped on the front and bottom any damp can still dry out in through the top and back.



However, if you've left it a little longer and the timbers are rotten, then the only option is a full replacement. This involves removing all of the old fascia boards and soffits and replacing them with PVC-U ones that are usually 16-25mm thick. Replacement is also likely to mean taking off the bottom few layers of tiles or slates to fit the boards, as the fascias butt the roof under the eaves.

As you can imagine, replacement is more time consuming and as a consequence, the costs of labour and materials increase. The advantage of a full installation is that it is thorough. The simple act of lifting the tiles, for example, can help uncover rotten batons or roofing felt.

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Cowbridge Comprehensive School honours its sporting stars at presentation evening



THERE were two star guests invited to Cowbridge Comprehensive School's sports presentation evening.

Nicole Cooke, whose cycling achievements are too numerous to list – an Olympic gold medal in Beijing 2008 in the road race being just one – was joined by Welsh international swimmer Bethan Sloan, who competed in this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Bethan, indeed, is a former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil, while Nicole attended the school's local sporting rivals, Brynteg Comprehensive in Bridgend.



Bowlers enjoy finals

DURING the beginning of September Rhoose Bowling Club concluded its bowling season with the club competitions finals and the last of their club competitions.

After a full day of bowling the following results were achieved. Sue Dance beat Jo Hopkins by 14 shots to 5 in the Ladies 2 bowl singles. Anthony Parsons beat Paul Williams by 15 shots to 8.

Lyn Willmot and Colin Ashdown lost to Hugh Jupp and Geoff Lages in the Men's Pairs by 11 shots to 25.

Anita Shears and Rachel Green beat Dot Gardner and Jo Hopkins in the Ladies' Pairs by 27 shots to 20.

Sue Dance and Terry Martin beat Rachel Green and Phil Jacobs

by 26 shots to 9 in the Mixed Pairs.

Men's 4 bowl Singles - Anthony Parsons beat Terry Martin by 21 shots to 10. Ladies 4 bowl Singles - Sue Dance beat Rita Craig by 25 shots to 21.

On Sunday, September 21, the club held its triples competition and 21 members took part. After four hours of bowling the final was contested by Ron Craig, Sheila Wood and Paul Williams and Anita Shears, Chas Dance and Mike White. Paul's team was completely outclassed by Mike White's, who won by 11 shots to 1.

All these competitions were run competently by the club's competition secretary, Anthony Lages.

JH

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Come along to the open house/open day Sunday 28th September 12-2pm. No appointments necessary - all welcome.

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Tel: 0333 443 2685 or 0161 212 7381 for details

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 5) ORDER 2014

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to amend the parking places at the locations specified in the Schedule below.

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Visible Services & Housing (Ref.IF470) in writing by 17th October 2014 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE 1

Proposed No Waiting At Any Time

Heol St. Cattwg, Pendoylan

On the north side of the road, from a point approximately 14 metres east of its junction with Pendoylan Road, in a south westerly and north westerly direction for a distance of approximately 28 metres.

On the south side of the road, from a point approximately 14 metres east of its junction with Pendoylan Road, in a south westerly direction for a distance of approximately 29 metres.

Dated this 25th day of September 2014

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

MILWOOD'S GIFT TO BOWLING CHARITY



On Sunday, September 14, Millwood Bowls Club held a very successful charity day. Mr Jim Munkley was presented with a cheque for £1,050 for his charity Paraplegic & Tetraplegic Bowlers. In the photo from left to right are June Davis (ladies' captain) Mr and Mrs Munkley, and Godfrey Stone (men's captain).

JM

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, September 16, Llanharry Working Men's Club defeated the Old Post Ladies 8-1.

In this match two players from Llanharry, Victor John and Lee Davies, hit a 180. Paul Butcher (Edmondes B) also hit a 180 that evening while helping the Edmondes B defeat the Hare and Hounds 7-2.

In the other two matches the Highwayman Inn beat the Edmondes A 5-4 and the Edmondes C beat the Farmer's Arms 6-3. In this match Noyles Burt (Edmondes C) hit a 130 3-dart-out, finishing on the bull.

Present league standings, after two matches, are: Llanharry (15 points), Edmondes B (13), Highwayman Inn (10), Edmondes C (9), Farmer's Arms (7) Hare and Hounds and Edmondes A (6) and Old Post Ladies (4).

Next week, Tuesday September 30, there is a full programme of league matches. Edmondes A hosts the Edmondes B, the Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondes C, the Highwayman Inn hosts Llanharry

and the Farmer's Arms hosts the Hare and Hounds.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk

PJT

Bridge results

RESULTS for Cowbridge and District (Llanbleddian) bridge club, September 2:

1st Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs 59.09%, 2nd Marian Arnold and Shena Serjeant 54.42%, 3rd Pat and Brian Swain 54.58%.

September 9: 1st Sylvia Bryant and Dennis Smith 67.86%, 2nd Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs 63.10%, 3rd Anne Hughes and Teri Pollard 56.75%.

September 16: 1st Rita Williams and Marian East 69%, 2nd Judith Nunn and Ann Miller 60.50%, 3rd Pauline Land and Hugh Williams 57.50%.

ME

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014

GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 5) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o ond a dradduau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124, a Rhian IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffurdd 1984 a Rhian 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn gweineud Gorchymyn. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn hwnnw fydd henidw y mannau parcio yn y lleoliadau sydd wedi'u nodi yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn drwy fynd i'r cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Os oes genynnun unrhyw wrthwnebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr a Gylarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (Cif. IF470) erbyn 17 Hydref 2014 gan nodi'n rhosymau dros ei wrthwnebu.

3. Dylai'r sawl sy'n gwrtwnebu'r Gorchymyn a gynigiwyd gofio bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor hwn, o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wymbodaeth) 1985, i sicrhau bob pod ymateb a gaiff i'r gorchymyn dan sylw ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei astudio.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn: **Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Gwahardt Mannau Aros, Llythytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros Llythytho a Pharcio 2013)** Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

ATODLEN 1

Cynnig ynglŷn â Gwahardt Aros ar Unrhwy Adeg

Heol St. Cattwg, Pendoylan

Ar ochr ogledadol yr heol, o fan sydd oddeutu 14 medr i'r dwyraint o'r gyffordd a Pendoylan Road, am ryw 28 medr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin a'r gogledd orllewin.

Ar ochr dde'i heol, o fan sydd oddeutu 14 medr i'r dwyraint o'r gyffordd a Pendoylan Road, am ryw 29 medr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

Dyddiedig 25 Medi 2014

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpu, Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.

Rhoose FC exit the Welsh Cup

RHOOSE FC travelled to Port Talbot on Saturday in the Welsh Cup second qualifying round and surrendered their previously unbeaten run, losing to South Wales Amateur League side Trefelin 3-2.

Rhoose pressed on and were unlucky not to be rewarded further following excellent approach work from Jemel Easter and Gianluca Palladino. However, Trefelin put the game beyond Rhoose's reach when they went further ahead 10 minutes from time when a defensive lapse led to an own goal. Rhoose got a consolation goal on the stroke of full time, but by then it was all over for the Vale side in this season's Welsh Cup campaign.

The Vale side hope to get back to winning ways this Saturday when they entertain Pontypridd Town in the Welsh League at Jenner Park – kick off 2:30pm. AP

Sully Sports beat Saracens

AFTER a tough couple of weeks for both Sully Sports RFC teams, the 1st XV welcomed Cardiff Saracens.

The weather was kind and stayed dry for the third week running, which meant all teams could look forward to some running rugby.

The crowd were not let down, both sides putting their markers down early, and some ferocious tackling ensured a high tempo game followed, neither side giving an inch and trying different waves of attack.

The home side took early advantage as runs from man of the match Jon Blake and Jody Velda ensured Sully Sports kept the edge and maintained the advantage over this well drilled Saracens side.

Saracens took control at the break down and

Skittles league

DIVISION 1:

Bunker Boys (D.Adams, R.Connell 26) 263; Road Runners (S.Hill, L.Bennett 26) 236, Exiles (D.Norris, G.Michell 26) 266; Tynny Fliers (M.Kirke 33) 300, Posties (R.Usher, S.Nash 28) 284; Witchill Wizards (D.Casado 36) 321, The Royalists (G.Davies 36) 33.

Division 3: Billy Bluebirds (D.Watkins 27) 267, The Alternatives (P.Roderick 28) 258; Castle Boys (M.Burton, T.McCorck 25) 237, 'H' Bells (K.Smith 26) 254; Companions 'D'.Simmons,P.Ryles 29) 278, British Rail (T.Hill, K.Brown 28) 260; The Rejects (P.Edgar 30) 304, Billy Whizz (M.Cutis 33) 304.

GI



HR

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Tyncoed Surgery
THE surgery located off Heol Cwrdy, Sarn, opposite Filco supermarket is giving residents aged over 50 an opportunity to find out how to improve their health and wellbeing.

The free event will include health checks and information, healthy cooking demonstrations, physical exercise activities and information stalls, including Diabetes UK, Stroke Association, BAVO and Age Cymru.

Organised by Bridgend Communities First's 'Add to your life' on its health information day, it takes place in the surgery on Tuesday, September 30 from 2pm to 6pm.

It is a community focused programme that supports the most disadvantaged people in the most deprived areas, with the aim of alleviating persistent poverty. For more information, telephone Fay on 01656 815136.

Gleemen perform

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir under musical director Alun Hodges, aided by accompanist Suzanne Hodges, recently performed in the harvest festival service at Dyffryn Chapel, Caerau, which raised £200.

On Saturday, October 18 the choir will be holding its annual concert in Maesteg town hall at 7pm. It rehearses in the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg, on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm; and welcomes visitors and new members.

Annual concert

MAESTEG Amateur

Pupils pick up prizes after summer in library

RIGHT: Cowbridge librarian Melanie Weeks with Morgan Frederick (left) and Jack Phillips.

YOUNG readers were congratulated last week at Cowbridge Library after taking part in summer activities, with prizes for five members.

Ceri Vaughan-Jones, a pupil at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, received a prize for successfully completing the summer reading challenge.

The challenge involved reading six books, and then writing a review of each book. Ceri told The GEM that his favourite of the six

Operatic Society is putting on its annual concert in Maesteg Town Hall at 7pm from October 22–25. *Addams Family the Musical* will have the same principal artistes that performed in the 'NODA best district and regional production 2013' with the show *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Aberkenfig WI
PRESIDENT Unice Williams opened the Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute's meeting on September 10, the first meeting in the Len Evans Centre, by welcoming the members and a visitor Gina, who is originally from Russia.

Happy Birthday was said to Sally Jones and Barbara Morris; the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The speaker, Jan Jennings, told us the history of hats, went through the large selection she had brought with her, and explained how they became everyday wear until the 1970s.

Victorian bonnets were introduced 150 years ago and that started the fashion of women wearing hats.

In the early 1900s large, heavily decorated brimmed hats required up to six very long hatpins to keep them in place. There is still a hat pin society which meets every year. Coco Chanel the French fashion designer was very popular and film stars also started trends. Bette Davies and Joan Crawford were two who made a real impact on fashion in their time.

Jan modelled all of her hats; some wartime hats were military in style, the Minnie Caldwell style hat from early Coronation Street episodes were popular in the 1950s, also in the 1950s and 1960s the big brimmed floppy hats

became fashionable again.

Jan also had in her very large bag bowler hats, straw hats, pillbox hats, and a Russian spy hat which was waterproof!

Unice gave the vote of thanks. The raffle was drawn and the competition for a small item beginning with the letter 'H' was won by Irene Burgess, with a little honeypot.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Personly, Aberkenfig at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

The speaker for October, Mrs Joyce James, will talk about the origins of names, which should be interesting. New members and visitors are always made welcome. For further information, contact Dilys on 01656 725399, or www.cobwebs.co.uk.

Time out

TONDU primary school pupils from classes Taf and Usk will be at Tondu Methodist church tomorrow Friday, September 26, to view the exhibition displayed in the new community rooms. It is hoped that local residents will agree to be interviewed as part of the school's oral history project.

September 30 will be a non-school-uniform day. It is hoped they will wear green garments to celebrate the school's green (eco) day, and parents are asked to donate (£1) to help support the school's sponsored Ugandan child, Paskali.

Liberation concerts

LAST Friday, I had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with Vince Scanlon, who told me that he had been responsible for Welsh choirs performing in concerts to mark the



had been Northern Lights, part one of Philip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials' trilogy.

There were also two competitions where children were asked to 'design a monster', and there were four prize-winners in this group.

In the four to seven age group, the winner

was Morgan Frederick of Llanfair Primary School, while in second was Jack Phillips, who goes to Croesy Primary in Pencoed.

In the eight to 12 age group, the winner was William Andrews of Y Bont Faen Primary, with Nia Davies of Llangan Primary in second.

In the four to seven age group, the winner

NORTH BRIDGENG NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

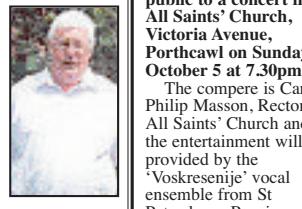
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



borough, invites the public to a concert in All Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl on Sunday, October 5 at 7.30pm.

The compere is Canon Philip Masson, Rector of All Saints' Church and the entertainment will be provided by the 'Voskreseñije' vocal ensemble from St Petersburg, Russia.

They will be performing classical music from Rachmaninov, Handel etc along with traditional Russian folk songs.

Also there will be traditional Welsh songs sung by Ieuentyd Aelwyd, Porthcawl.

Tickets are £10 and the money raised will be donated to the mayor's charities – Macmillan Cancer Support, Bridgend Carers' Centre, and the Friends of Bridgend Youth Music.

Maesteg Town Hall

I HAD the pleasure of attending Cŵr Merched Cwm Llynfi silver anniversary concert at a packed Maesteg town hall.

The ladies' choir, returned with *From a Distance, Nos Da and I will Survive*.

The raffle was drawn during the interval by Roy Noble and then conductor Paul Deenik sang a solo piece with both choirs.

There was also a 13-year-old soloist, Ffionn Bevan, who appeared with the ladies' choir

and sang beautifully *Castles on a Cloud* in the medley from the show *Les Misérables*.

Among dignitaries present were Huw Irranca-Davies MP and Janice Gregory AM with their spouses.

The ladies' choir, conducted by Paul Deenik, accompanied by his wife Laura, began

anniversary of the liberation of s'Hertogenbosch by the 53rd Division of the Welsh Regiment in 1944.

In the mid 1980s Vince made contact with Angelica Puritch from Stuttgart in a concert at Port Talbot. Vince, chairman of Porthcawl Male Choir, accepted an invitation to take the choir to Stuttgart.

Its performance was recognised as outstanding and Vince was invited to organise a concert in the Netherlands. Both Germany and the Netherlands have a male musical culture, which is financially supported by the German and Dutch Post Office enterprises.

This has been an annual event to celebrate the liberation of the city for 30 years. Two years ago, Vince travelled with Cŵr Merched Cwm Llynfi

(Llynfi Valley ladies choir) the first ever ladies' choir, and last year he took London Welsh rugby club choir, the first choir outside the Wales to perform in the festival.

This year he will be taking Bridgend Male Choir, to mark the 70th anniversary. Vince has also been involved with Bridgend Male Choir for 31 years and is a vice president.

Harvest gifts
TYNYRHEOL
Primary School's harvest assembly will be held on October 10 in the school hall at 9.30am and relatives of the children and governors are invited.

The school will be asking for donations of harvest gifts to be brought in nearer the time.

If anyone knows of an elderly person in the community who would appreciate one of the harvest gifts, please

MONTE CASSINO VETERANS HOLD A LOCAL REUNION



ABOVE: The veterans from left to right – Theo Davies, (Swansea) Aubrey Evans (Neath), Jim Morgan (Llantwit Major) and Bob Clarke (Llantwit Major).

A group of Welsh World War Two veterans – all members of The Monte Cassino Society – held a reunion in Llantwit Major.

Jim Morgan, who lives in the town, said: "Our average age is 92 and we hold the get-together annually."

"All four of us are members of The Monte Cassino Society who served in various branches of the Army in Italy during the first six months of 1944."

The Battle of Monte Cassino was a series of four assaults by the Allies against the 'Winter Line' in Italy with the aim of effecting a breakthrough to Rome.

The capture of Monte Cassino came at a high price with the Allies sustaining around 55,000 casualties. The Monte Cassino Society comprises veterans and their relatives – the relatives, for understandable reasons, have taken on more of the organisation of the society as the years have passed by.

Earlier this year Jim was among those in the society who made a journey back to Italy to remember those who never made it home. The



Jim having a chat with Prince Harry.

Rotary Bakeoff will aid world's needy

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend is holding a fun Bakeoff to raise funds for the supply of LifeStraw®, a portable water filter, to vulnerable ethnic groups in developing countries.

The entry fee is £2 and there will be one prize of a £25 cookware voucher in each of three categories: large cakes; small cakes (plate of six); cakes with an international theme. The overall winner will receive a trophy vase. Spectators welcome at £3 per head to include refreshments.

Bring your cakes to the Blandy Hall, Laleston, by 6.30pm on Friday, (September 26). Judging will begin at 7pm. For further details, contact Judy McCarthy on 01656 861984, or email jr.mc@virgin.net.

Romilly Quarter

CHURCH CONVERSION news update



Welcome to Romilly Quarter on Porthkerry Road in Barry. More than a century after they were built, we are converting the Church and Sunday School Hall to create 11 beautiful new houses.



ABOUT BROWNFIELD GREEN LTD...

We are a property development company who specialise in the restoration and sympathetic conversion of historic buildings.

At the heart of our company is a strong moral compass and a guarantee that we will never build on green fields. Every project we work on is a complete one off, and every house is unique.

We act as the developer and contractor which allows us to keep quality high – and provide people with stylish homes.



Modern homes with history...

We're creating modern homes for the modern lifestyle at Romilly Quarter. All the houses at the development will have spacious open plan kitchen and dining areas. Many have voluminous double height spaces, giving a fantastic sense of space, with galleried living rooms.

The quality and size of these homes will far exceed a comparable new build house; from 1 metre thick stone walls, to artisan stained glass, to an original Welsh slate roof, to an exquisite fine detailed feature facade. The conversion will provide all of the historic quality and period features of an historic building with the warmth and energy efficiency of a modern home - modern homes with history. They come with 10 year warranties too!

There will be 7 houses in the former Chapel and 4 houses in the School Hall, all with their own garden and parking.



...lots of history!

- These amazing Victorian gas lamps would have been the latest technology when the church was built. They have been carefully removed and will be repositioned in two of the double height spaces in the Chapel houses. What a feature!

- During the renovations we've also found the remains of an old coal range which would have been used to heat the church back in 1898. Fortunately the new homes will be much cosier, with Worcester Bosch boilers throughout the development and insulation exceeding current building regulations.

Join the Romilly Quarter mailing list to get exclusive access and information about the development, and gain early access on the open day - date to be announced shortly. Please e-mail lucy@brownfieldgreen.co.uk to be kept informed!

COMING SOON . . .

THE CHAPEL AT ROMILLY QUARTER

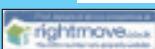
- 11 luxury historic houses combining the best of new & old
- All with gardens & parking
- Spectacular views & period features

THE SCHOOL HOUSE AT ROMILLY QUARTER

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email:
enquiries@ninaestateagents.co.uk

**Arthur Street, BARRY**

Renovated throughout, end of terraced, living room/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC-D.

£127,950

**Gilbert Lane, BARRY**

Immaculate presentation, extended modern detached, five bedrooms - two ensuites, sitting/office, living room, stunning open plan kitchen/family area, w.c. cloak, utility.

£269,950

**Brenig Close, BARRY**

Three double bedrooms, semi detached, wc cloakroom, living room, fitted kitchen/dining room, replacement bathroom, enclosed south facing garden, driveway/garage. EPC-D.

£219,950

**Trem Powys, BARRY**

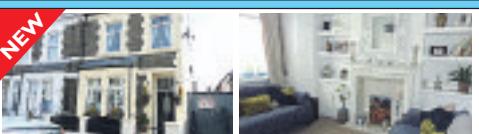
Modern end of link, 2 bedrooms, living room with stairs rising, kitchen/diner, enclosed rear garden, rear access leading to front, driveway providing parking, cul de sac position. ER-C.

£132,500

**Wenvoe Terrace, BARRY**

3 bedroomeed, end terrace traditional, through living/dining room, sea views from front, UPVC D/G & combination boiler, enclosed rear garden, walking distance to train station. EPC-F.

£154,950

**Guthrie Street, BARRY**

Stunning presentation, mid terrace traditional, walled forecourt area, 2 separate rec. rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, luxury bathroom, garage - lane access, refurbished. EPC-D.

£121,950

**Laugharne Court, BARRY**

Mid terraced, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom, no chain, gas central heating (not tested). EPC-D.

£70,000

**Greenacres, BARRY**

Modern semi-detached, four bedrooms, living room, fitted kitchen, enclosed private garden, paved driveway providing ample parking. ER-D

£164,950

**The Royal, PENARTH**

First floor apartment, placed in a period building, open plan kitchen/liner, family bathroom, double bedroom, courtyard shared garden (accessible from rear bedroom), GCH via combi, no chain. EPC-C.

£124,950

**Paget Road, BARRY ISLAND**

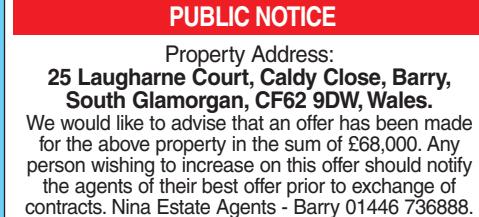
Contemporary, secure living, 1st floor apartment, open plan kitchen/liner, views over cricket green, double bedroom, secure parking to rear, pin code entry system, ideal for FTB or investor. EPC-E.

£99,950

**Courtlands, SULLY**

One bedroomeed, ground floor, approx 20ft living room, open plan kitchen, 24hr concierge - leisure facility, designated parking, no chain. EPC-D.

£70,000

**PUBLIC NOTICE****Property Address:**

**25 Laugharne Court, Cally Close, Barry,
South Glamorgan, CF62 9DW, Wales.**

We would like to advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £68,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Nina Estate Agents - Barry 01446 736888.

**Station Street, BARRY**

Mid terraced traditional, four bedrooms, through living room, separate dining room, 1st floor bathroom, town centre location, no chain. EPC-D.

£115,000

**St. Osyth Court, BARRY**

End of link bungalow, two bedrooms, far reaching sea views & Rom. Park, covered balcony, garden to side, designated parking, viewing highly recommended. EPC-D.

£148,500

**Seapoint, THE KNAP**

2nd floor, one bedroomeed, views over the Old Harbour and The Knap, kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, economy 7 heating - UPVC DG, security door entry system. EPC-D.

£102,000

**Barry Road, BARRY**

Mid terraced, double bay traditional, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, three double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, lane access. EPC-D.

£152,950

**Elm Grove, BARRY**

Semi detached bungalow, three bedrooms, showhome presented, living room, spacious plot, ample parking, viewing essential. ER-D

£169,950

**Lon Cefn Mably, RHOOSE**

Semi detached bungalow, cul de sac position, 2 double bedrooms, kitchen/dining area, replacement modern wet room, ideal plot to extend, GCH UPVC/DG. EPC-E.

£184,950

**St Nicholas Road, BARRY**

End of link, modern dwelling, 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, front garden, garage to rear, small patio garden. EPC-E.

£189,950

**Buttrills Road, BARRY**

Three bedroomeed, semi detached, extended traditional, study, dining room, sunken lounge, enclosed garden, large patio with far reaching views EPC-E.

£199,950

**Glen Mavis Way, BARRY**

Three bedroomeed, detached dwelling, constructed in the 1960's, living room leading to dining room, sitting room & conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. EPC-D.

£199,950

**Porthkerry Road, BARRY**

Spacious living, original features throughout, centralised staircase, three separate rec. rooms, four bedrooms, wc/shower room, utility room, sea views over Bristol Channel, garden. EPC-D.

£199,950

**Bron Awelon, BARRY**

Semi detached dwelling, off road parking, three bedrooms - ensuite, fitted kitchen, utility, wc, two rec. rooms, sea views from rear, replacement boiler. EPC-D.

£224,950

**Well Walk, THE KNAP**

Semi detached, in need of modernisation, original features remaining, two rec. rooms, fitted kitchen, wc/cloakroom, spacious plot ideal for extending, off road parking. EPC-D.

£244,950

**Nant Talwg Way, BARRY**

Detached traditional, 2 reception rooms, wc cloakroom, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, private enclosed garden, driveway/garage. EPC-C.

£269,950

**Colcot Road, BARRY**

Extended dwelling, living room opening to sitting area, fitted kitchen/breakfast, wc cloakroom, 4 bedrooms & dressing/study, enclosed garden. ER-C.

£289,950

**Lower Farm Court, RHOOSE**

Spacious family detached, three reception rooms, five bedrooms, master ensuite, dressing area, double garage, ample parking, cul de sac position. EPC-D.

£369,950

**Port Road East, BARRY**

Spacious detached, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms, master ensuite, double garage, private enclosed garden. EPC-D.

£379,950

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Nina Estate Agents Ltd are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £119,000 for:
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The Seaweeds leave it late to secure victory



Jake Thomas (left) and Jon Phillips (right) were part of the Porthcawl team that earned a win over Bridgend Sports on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

M A T C H E S
between Bridgend
Sports and
Porthcawl rarely
disappoint and this
encounter was no
exception, providing a fine
afternoon's entertainment, as
the Seaweeds eventually ran out
comfortable winners.

The standard of play throughout the match was high and it was the visitors that had much the better of the early stages. With barely two minutes played, Porthcawl took the lead with flanker Gareth Davies notching his third try in as many weeks for a 5-0 lead, following an immense forward onslaught from the Porthcawl eight.

Barely three minutes later, the elusive Jordan Skidmore rounded off a brilliant move in which Dai James and skipper Lloyd Long were instrumental amongst the nine pairs of hands that moved the ball wide, and he rounded almost behind the posts for a try, converted by Jon Phillips, for 12-0.

Long, back after missing the first three

matches, was immense for Porthcawl throughout the afternoon, leading from the front with a barnstorming display, along with No.8 Matt Davies who was also back to his best during the opening spell.

Sports did get their act together to get into the match with a deserved try by centre Lee Roderick, converted Ken Morris, just after Porthcawl prop Tim Lunn found himself in the sin bin for transgressing at a ruck, taking the score to 12-7.

As both sides showed an entertaining penchant for moving the ball in the superb conditions, a momentous break by Porthcawl lock Nick Nutman, that ripped through the heart of the home defence, culminated in Dai James coasting over for an unconverted try, as the half drew to a close at 17-7.

Shortly after the break, Porthcawl introduced prop Gavin Williams for Simon Curtis, who had his best match to date, and Connor Rees for Gareth Edwards at scrum half.

The fresh legs helped Porthcawl continue to make the pace in the second half, and fly half

Jon Phillips widened the gap as he slotted a 35 metre penalty to put the Seaweeds 20-7 in front, with young centre Jake Thomas showing maturity beyond his years outside Phillips.

After 60 minutes,

Seaweeds prop Lunn fell foul of the referee again for his second yellow, and hence a red, to give the Sports a lift with the extra man for the remainder of the match.

This served to spur on the home side and they rapidly turned the match around to get within reach, as Dan James' quick tap penalty sent the strong-running Lee Roderick over for his brace for 20-12 and James Coles profited from James' scintillating break through the middle to score a well worked try. The Sports lack of successful goalkicking, however, left Porthcawl still three points in front.

With time running into last five minutes, Porthcawl having again taken the upper hand despite being a man short, and with Gareth Richards showing glimpses of his best support running, two great holes torn in the Sports' defence, first by Nutman then by hooker Jack Williams, saw Skidmore notch his second try for 25-17, to leave Sports needing two scores to win.

With less than a minute remaining, another ideal scrum position 30 metres out set the platform for Skidmore to round off a satisfactory personal performance with a beauty of a drop goal to conclude matters at 28-17, with a bonus point in the bag.

Seaweeds coach Rhys James allowed himself a satisfied smile at what was a well-deserved win by a side that is now starting to run into good form, in what is proving to be a very interesting division to be a part of this season.

PF

Casey meets rugby Ryan!



RYAN
Bevington
made a guest
appearance
at the Scrum
Ready event
recently in
Llandarcy.

Ryan is an accomplished regional and international front row player, a level two rugby coach and an active grassroots coach at Porthcawl RFC. He is willing to share his insight, knowledge and experience in this crucial area of the game.

The coach of Pencoed Phoenix under-16s, Leanne Casley, attended the event, and player Carys Baker is pictured with Ryan (photo taken by Julie Hancock).

'School of rugby' status awarded to Porthcawl Comprehensive



There was a festival of rugby for Porthcawl pupils (and teachers) as the school celebrated being awarded WRU rugby school status.



Bridgend Athletic youth make cup progress

B R I D G E N D
Athletic youth
played the first
round of this years
Welsh youth cup
when they travelled
west to Ammanford.

The Athletic youth had not played the Scarlets region club for a number of years and so they were something of an unknown quantity.

The game was played

in excellent conditions

and the wide pitch was

perfect for open rugby

and indeed the game was

played in this way with

the first 20 minutes being

played at a high pace by

both sides.

Despite there being no score in the first quarter there were signs that the Bridgend backs were looking extremely sharp and on at least three occasions the last pass went astray preventing the score being opened.

Up front the Bridgend pack were also beginning to put huge pressure on the home side, particularly in the line out where Matthew Bennett, Tom Seldon and Luke Williams were dominant providing excellent ball for young scrum half Dan James to feed the Bridgend backs.

In fairness to the Ammanford eight they were competing in the rucks and mauls but the Bridgend pack were in complete control in the set pieces, allowing James at scrum half to provide excellent ball.

This pressure told after 25 tough minutes when after an accurate line out and some excellent handling amongst the forwards the ball was moved from half backs to centres Tom Jenkins and Sean Wilcox to put speedy young winger Rhys Lloyd over near the posts for the opening try which was converted by number 10

Josh Carey to make the score 7-0 to Bridgend Athletic.

Almost from the kick off the Bridgend forwards took the ball back to Ammanford with back row forwards Ethan Davies, Matthew Bennett and Jeavon Bell combining and when full back Craig Lewis came into the line at speed there was nothing the Ammanford defence could do to prevent the game's fifth try.

The kicking duties were handed over to left wing Liam Phillips who slotted the conversion to take the score to 31-0.

With great determination Ammanford tried to keep the Athl out, but the game was only going one way and when hooker Hywel Cosby went over to score his second try of the season with the extra points being added by Phillips, the score had gone to 38-0.

More of the same came the home team's way, particularly in the shape of young right wing Rhys Lloyd, whose pace was taking its toll on the tired defence and two quick tries from the winger to complete his hat trick, both converted by Liam Phillips, took the score to 52-0 and under the 50 point ruling the game was stopped with some 20 minutes to go.

Final score Ammanford youth 0, Bridgend Athletic youth 52.

The whole of the squad were praised by the coaching team for a massive team performance, but special credit must go to two first year players, scrum half Dan James and winger Rhys Lloyd, who were outstanding.

The Bridgend Athletic coaching staff of Tony Bennett, Gerwyn Wilcox, James Groom and Gavin Thomas were proud and delighted in the way their whole squad performed on the day.



Welsh Rugby Union School of Rugby Award

This award is presented in recognition of this school's current and future commitment to the provision of Rugby Union. The WRU is indebted to all those that freely give up their time to provide playing opportunities for their pupils.

J. Lewis

James Lewis
Welsh Rugby Union Manager
September 2014

P O R T H C A W L Comprehensive School. The players held a question and answer session which was thoroughly enjoyed by the abundance of budding Ospreys' players among the audience!

The day ended with a 'Festival of Rugby' involving five teams of pupils, and much to their delight, one team of teachers, participating in Tom Cole.

He was joined by Ospreys' players Morgan Allen and Lloyd Peers. We look forward to an who himself was a exciting rugby season ahead.

Porthcawl NE

Scorpions sign Wolves
SOUTH Wales Scorpions have signed two players from Aber Valley Wolves, the side who finished top of the Welsh Conference table this season.

Bradley Hill and Geraint Clarke both impressed for the Wolves and were selected for the Wales Dragonhearts side this year as a result.

Hill has played for the Scorpions in the past. Originally with Newport Gwent Dragons, playing with them between 2008 and 2011 in their academy sides, the 21-year old centre also played club rugby union at Caerphilly.

MP

IG



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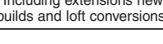
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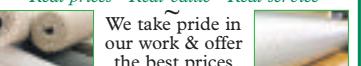


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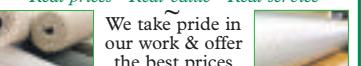


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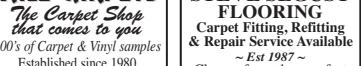
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Family Notices**KING Ivan John**

Flo and the family would like to extend their grateful thanks for all the support they've received since John's death on 1st September. Thanks, also, for the generous donations to the British Heart Foundation in John's memory.

MORGAN Richard William

27/5/1937 - 22/9/2014
Formerly of Marcross

Peacefully at home with his cherished children and grandchildren at his bedside.

Richard, devoted husband of Margaret, dearly loved dad to Mandy, John and Cheryl, much loved father-in-law, a loving grandad and great-grandad.

Thank you to Dr Jones and Partners, and the district nurses for their dedication and dignified care and support shown to Dad and us all every day.

A service will be held at 3 Windsor Close, Llanwit Major on Tuesday September 30 at 11.30am, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major CF32 0SB.

MARTYN Marie**Marie**

Marie Martin's family want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who made her last journey, and the celebration of her life, a day to remember.

David Brown and Park Funerals conducted the arrangements with care, consideration and a personal touch that made mum's funeral a lovely experience. We want to thank Father Ben at St Mary's Church for his kindness and thoughtfulness, holding the service in one of Barry's historic buildings that accommodated so many people on the day.

Our thanks to Ian, Jackie, Christina and staff at the Dolphin, for providing a fantastic venue for the wake, the buffet and a photo-display on screen.

David at ABC Designs produced stunning photograph boards, and family and friends who also contributed on the day.

The turnout of family and friends was incredible. We want to thank everyone for their love, support and cards. The donations will be given to Cancer Research Wales.

Thanks also to The GEM for its article on mum.

HELEN PHILLIPS

Jeff, Brenda and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, donations and kind expressions of sympathy received at this sad time.

We would also thank the medical team for the care shown to Helen throughout her illness. We have been comforted by all the messages we have received and knowing how much Helen was loved by everyone who knew her. We would also like to thank W. James & Sons Funeral Directors and Reverend Edwin Counsell for their care and compassion shown at this sad time.

GREEN Walter John

Peacefully on September 22, at Llandough Hospital, Walter (Wally) of Rhoose, beloved husband of Eirlys, dear father of Anita, Louisa and the late Maria, loving grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday October 3, service and cremation 1.30pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Crossroads Carers, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

CODMAN Jack

Suddenly, but peacefully, at Llandough Hospital, after a long illness on 18 September, Jack, aged 86 years of Sully.

Beloved husband of Peggy, much loved father of Janet and Christopher, father-in-law of Stuart and Elaine, cherished grandfather of Sean. Jack will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral on Monday 29 September. Service at the chapel at 2.45pm, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium. Immediate family flowers only.

If desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the service for British Heart Foundation.

ARMELIN**Armando**

Peacefully on 21 September 2014 at home with his family, Armando, aged 60 years of Lakeside, Barry. Dearly loved husband of Kim, a loved father of Lucy and Henry, dearly loved son of Gianna and the late Toni. Loving brother of Carla, Paola, Francis, Anthony and Pia.

Armando will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Friday 26 September. Service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 2.15pm. Family flowers only - donations, if desired, may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral, for Velindre Hospital.

Thank You

Thank You
Many thanks to the lady who found my mobile phone on Monday, 22 September in the fields between the Fontygary Leisure Park and the Railway Station in Rhoose.

Congratulations**Emma Griffiths**

Well done on achieving your BA with Hons.
Love Mum, Dad & Ryan.
XXX

PARKS Julie Ann

On September 19, at her home in St Athan, after a long, hard battle against illness, Julie, beloved wife of Andy, dearly loved mother of Chris, loving daughter of Gerda and the late Ken Teague, dear sister of David, an inspirational lady to all who knew her.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday October 2, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Hospital c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 9 SULLY) PUBLIC PATH CREATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENT 2014

1. Effaith y cytundeb uchod a gwblhawyd ar 24 Mehefin 2014, yw creu llwybr troed cyhoeddus rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm yn ystod yr wythnos, yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT. Cewch brynu copi o'r cytundeb yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.
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4. Daw'r Cytundeb i rym ar waithau.

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Dated 25th September 2014

Director of Development Services
Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

FINALS DAY SEES SOME EXCELLENT MATCH-PLAY ACTION AT ST ATHAN GC



ABOVE: Junior finalists Josh Morgan and Rhodri Miskin.



ABOVE: Championship finalists BJ Hawkins (left), Gerald Thomas and their caddies.



ABOVE: The Fairwood Park Cup finalists.

ST ATHAN Golf Club's best golfers assembled at the clubhouse on Saturday, September 20, to compete in their annual club finals day.

The day was the culmination of various competitions played throughout the year and the outcome on finals day decided whose names would go onto the coveted competition boards.

The greenkeepers and their volunteers had worked tirelessly leading up to the event to ensure that the course was in pristine condition and the members were rewarded with the course presented tremendously.

All of the matches were match play format with the majority of them played over 36 holes. In the club championship there was a real see-saw contest. First BJ Hawkins went ahead and then Gerald Thomas; the match was all square after 18 holes, both players had managed to find an out-of-bounds but both still carded a gross 75.

Unfortunately for BJ, Gerald put his head down and dug deep, eventually finishing the game 4 and 2, securing the main title '2014 club champion'.

The plate final saw JWG Morgan and Pete Morgan square up, both long time members of the club and veterans of competing on finals day.

JWG soon took the lead and ensured he maintained it; increasing his three hole advantage at the half way stage to 5 up after 21 holes before settling back to finish the game 4 and 3.

The Rabbits Trophy was won by Phil Lewis but not before a fight back from Mike Clark who was 5 down at the turn. Whether it was complacency by Phil or stubbornness by Mike, the game sat all square after 33 holes but Mike graciously accepted defeat 2 and 1.

Ethan Allison and Keiran Whilding came up against each other to compete in the 18 hole Dan Archer trophy;

Ethan was 2 up after nine before stepping up the impetus to finish the victor by 4 and 2.

The Fairwood Park was the only team event, a four-ball better-ball format, saw Gary Bohun with playing partner Kyle Bladen snatch the title from Gerry Turnball and Frank Bradshaw with a 2 & 1 victory.

The junior championship saw a match that was virtually all over after 20 holes but Josh Morgan must be congratulated for keeping the game alive; pulling back from five down! It looked as if the match would have to go down the 37th; however Rhodri Miskin kept his cool and holed a putt on the 36th to become this year's junior champion.

The ladies final was once again contested by Liz Thomas; she wasn't deterred after seeing herself go 5 down after 6 holes and managed to pull the match back to all square for a short time.

However Michelle Bligh, with her husband Lee on the bag, proved the stronger of the two, winning 3 and 1 and lifting the 2014 ladies championship title.

Experienced finalist Janet Davies faced a relative newcomer to golf, Gaynor Williams, for the Millennium Plate trophy. Gaynor, after leading for most of the game, was left to think 'if only' as Janet's determination paid off, resulting in her winning the match on the 18th hole.

The greens staff, referees, caddies and spectators must be applauded for the superb conduct they displayed; their reward was witnessing a true demonstration of exceptional golf played by all of the competitors throughout the day.

St Athan Golf Club welcomes new players and visitors; a function room is available for private hire and catering is available. For further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.



ABOVE: Ladies finalists Michelle Bligh (left) and Liz Thomas.



ABOVE: Janet Davies and Gaynor Williams.



ABOVE: JWG Morgan and Pete Morgan.



ABOVE: Phil Lewis and Mike Clark.



ABOVE: Ethan Allison and Keiran Whilding.



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Barry Seconds take the win against Quins

BARRY Second XV returned to action after a week's rest with Cardiff Quins the visitors.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow, back after 3rd XV duty, were faced with a crippling injury list which forced them to delve deep into the squad. Eight players put on the green and white for the first time this season, and there was also a welcome return to action for John Haskell, who made the replacement bench.

The huge disruptions to the side's preparations were clearly evident, as poor defensive play allowed the visitors to go 14-0 ahead within the first five minutes.

Rattled, the home side finally got their act together under the leadership of captain Lee Jones, and produced a sustained period of pressure.

Their industry was finally rewarded when the ball was spread out wide, and the pace of Rhys Knapman took him beyond all would-be tacklers to the try line. Adam Lee failed to add the extras.

Buoyed by the reduction of the deficit, Barry poured forward to search for another score. With the forwards in the ascendancy, marshalled superbly by veteran scrum-half John Dimond, it was down to Paul Harrison who picked up from a ruck on halfway, before barging his way through defenders to score a memorable try. Lee converted to make the score 12-14.

Cardiff Quins were finding it difficult to handle the physicality of the Barry pack, but it was the inability to handle a high kick from Rhidian Mepham which saw Sion Vidal to profit from the error and score under the posts. Lee stroked over the conversion.

Barry did not let their grip of the game slip, and once again camped on the Quins line as they looked for the bonus-point try. After prolonged pressure, Josh Westall proved himself unstoppable from five yards as he powered over. The conversion was missed.

The visitors now realised that it was futile to try to compete up front against the powerful Barry eight, and resorted to using their speedy backs in an attempt to bring themselves back into the game.

With Barry down to 14 men after the sin-binning of Jones, they managed a converted try to bring the score to 26-21.

Barry responded by releasing their own set of backs, and ball was spread quickly out wide with Alex Evans the recipient, and he raced away to score in the corner. Lee failed to add the extras.

With all four substitutes now on for the home side, they came forward once again to threaten the Quins line, and this time it was Dave Evans who dived through near the posts, making Lee's conversion a formality.

The visitors did have the last say with a late consolation, but the day ultimately belonged to Barry who finished 36-28 winners as they secured a second successive bonus point victory.

This weekend the 2nd XV travel to Clwb Rygbi, while the 3rd XV host Taffs Well.

Team: Lee; Knapman, Flynn, A Evans, Mepham; McCann, Dimond; Corne, Vidal, Heard; Westall, Dutton; Harrison, Jones ©, J Evans. **Replacements:** Sullivan, Haskell, Harris, D Evans. **Man of the match:** Vidal. **KC**



ABOVE: Boxer Lee Selby is in training for a world title eliminator.

Barry boxer has eyes on world title

LEE SELBY, the current WBC international, British and Commonwealth featherweight champion, recently met the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor at the County Library in Barry.

On display in the library is Lee's kit that he wore in October 2013 when he fought Ryan Walsh in his final defence of the Lonsdale Belt. He won the match on points in 12 rounds.

Lee's next fight is in

October in the O2 Arena, London, where he will fight the Australian boxer Joel Brunner in the final eliminator for the IBF world title. Brunner has won all of his 27 fights and has managed 15 knock-outs.

Lee said: "I know this is going to be a tough fight, but I feel confident in my ability to beat Brunner."

The Mayor, Councillor Howard Hamilton, said: "I am sure all the people of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan will be cheering for Lee and will wish him the very best of luck."

Annual Ploughing & Hedging Society ploughing match

'Don't mind us... we'll just plough on'



ON Sunday, September 14, the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held its Ploughing Match at Tyn y Caeau Farm, Marcross by permission of Mr J Evans and family.

There were 47 tractors taking part, proving that the support for ploughing matches is growing throughout.

The chairman, Andrew Studley, thanked all concerned for the hard work put into organising the event and also all the competitors for making it a most memorable day.

The many spectators who turned up saw two teams of horses ploughing alongside all the tractors. They must have been the most photographed participants at the event!

The judges were K Davies, T Harris and A Lucas, and the results of the competition were:

Class 1 – Open Vintage Trailer Plough: 1st Gordon Harries (Pembrokeshire).

Class 2 – Open Vintage Hydraulic Plough: 1st Tony Bradley (Monmouth), 2nd Peter Kitchen (Monmouth), 3rd Ceri Richards (Carmarthenshire).

Class 3 – Classic Class: 1st John Cole (Hereford), 2nd Jeremy Jacobs (Glamorgan), 3rd Kevin Miles (Monmouth).

Class 5 – Novice: 1st Peter Batchelor (Glam), 2nd Jamie Williams (Glam), 3rd Julie Long (Glam), 4th Caroline Langford (Glam).

Class 6 – Commercial Reversible: 1st Adam Llewellyn (Glam), 2nd Lloyd Thomas (Glam), 3rd Ross James (Glam).

The Ferguson Club European T.20 Championship was held as part of the Ploughing Match. The two judges were David Bowyer (Devon) and Bill Isaac (Wiltshire) and the results of the championship were:

Champion: Keith Williams (Hereford), 2nd Will John (Pemb), 3rd John S Evans (Pemb), 4th Graham L Jones (Flintshire), 5th Roy Jury (Devon).

International Team Wales: Will John (Pemb), John S Evans (Pemb).

Best Junior and Winner of the Ian Ferguson Shield: Sam Ritchie (Powys).

Highest Scoring Welshman: Will John (Pemb).

Best turned out T.20 Ferguson and Plough: Basil George (Glam).

Basil George

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RECENTLY, the Cadoxton Schools of Taekwondo Do attend a W.O.M.A.A. held fun competition to raise monies for Diabetes, hosted by Mal Johns and Leanne Emerson.

The event was well supported with competitors from all over the UK in a friendly but competitive manner; there was a category for every competitor from beginners, intermediate, and advanced, with several Welsh and English title bouts also taking place on the day.

Fighting for Welsh title we had Cody Jacobsen, and competing in a title eliminator we had Thea Cunningham - both students took the fights at a week's notice. The title fights consisted of three, two-minute rounds, and Cody took his opponent all the way losing by one

point in the final minute.

Young Thea Cunningham's bout was nip and tuck throughout the three rounds. Thea just losing out in the third round by two points. Overall the Cadoxton School had a good day, coming away with a total of nine firsts, 10 second and eight third places in all categories.

Patterns: Beginner: 1st Ethan Andrus, 2nd Cameron Evans, 3rd Charlie Rogers. Intermediate: 1st Jessica Blackley, 2nd Joel Wells, 3rd Maddison Allen. Advanced: 1st Cody Jacobsen, 2nd Jake Quigley, 3rd Cian Allen.

Weapons: Beginner: 1st Ethan Andrus, 2nd Cameron Evans. Intermediate: 1st Joel Wells, 2nd Jessica Blackley, 3rd Lucia Cunningham. Advanced: 1st Cody Jacobsen, 2nd Cian Allen, 3rd Jake Quigley. Adult: 1st

Matthew Bennett.

Point Sparring: Beginner: 2nd Charlie Rogers, 3rd Deagan Stockford and Cameron Evans. Intermediate: 2nd Lucia Cunningham, Maddison Allen & Thea Cunningham, 3rd Jessica Blackley. Advanced: 1st Cody Jacobsen. Adult: 1st Matthew Bennett.

Pictured above with their instructors and coaches are Joel Wells, Ethan Andrus, Jessica Blackley, Lucia Cunningham, Jake Quigley, Cian Allen, Cody Jacobsen, Cameron Evans, Charlie Rogers, Deagan Stockford, Maddison Allen and Thea Cunningham.

For further information phone (01446) 406372 or see www.cadixontaktekwondo.weebly.com.

RT

The Barry Saints stroll to victory to maintain their perfect start to the season

BARRY Saints welcomed G.C.A.W to Venvoe and maintained their perfect start to the season with an 8-2 victory.

Saints striker Darren Townsend broke the deadlock after beating the offside trap and rounding the keeper to calmly slot the ball home. G.C.A.W were forcing the game looking for a reply which nearly came, only to find centre back Rhys Hocking in the way to clear off the line.

Saints began to dictate the tempo and Townsend took full advantage, bursting past his defender to open up his body and bend a shot around the keeper into the far corner.

Nathan Williams got in on the act after a trademark powerful run, latching on to a through ball to sidefoot under the onrushing keeper just before the halftime whistle.

Saints came out with a bang and Townsend grabbed another to complete his hattrick, as he used his chest to control a cross from Drew Burniston and lift a sidefooted volley over the keeper.

G.C.A.W grabbed a goal from a cross from the right which was finished with ease. David A Evans added his name to the list of scorers after beating the offside trap and emphatically sending the ball into the net.

G.C.A.W were then awarded a penalty after a handball which was converted expertly. Straight from kick off, a crisp passing move from the Saints gave David Evans the opportunity to strike a low powerful shot across the keeper which struck the post and crossed the line.

Townsend added his fourth after a good cross from James Rouse saw him finish with a low effort in to the bottom corner.

Michael Evans finished things off. Challenging

for a bouncing ball, he beat his marker and was left one on one before rounding the keeper to tap home.

Barry Saints would like to offer a special thanks to Nat, the owner of Orchard House, for his kind sponsorship helping the team going forward.

GL

BARRIVALE BRIDGE



LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for September 16:

1st Denis Mottram & Mike Best 76.67%; 2nd Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 57.50%; 3rd Irene Thomas & Jane Brook 53.75%.

Denis Mottram and Mike Best also won on handicap.

The handicap winners of the Doughty Bowl competition, played on August 5, were Ken Hannah and Jane Brook (pictured above).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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Weather doesn't impact on action at Llandow

ALTHOUGH the weather gods decided to play a trick on Llandow, with mixed conditions for what was supposedly a summer month, the Welsh club continued to produce fine action on-track as the championship moved into its second half.

With no Bambinos present, the assorted Cadet classes kicked things off, with Shay Keough and Max Fenlon sharing the heat wins in the IAME category. When it came to the final, however, Thomas Nippers – who had been denied by just 0.001secs in heat three – came through to surprise both, claiming a rare success, with Fenlon second and Connor Kearney third.

The Honda class was no less fiercely contested, with Austin Maddocks and George Alp-Williams taking victory in the heats, before Jack Fordham stole the honours in the main event. Alp-Williams crossed the line in second place, with Maddocks third, just behind lone Comer runner Shayne Clarke.

The Honda Junior races were dominated by Celtic champion Kristian Prosser and Welsh champion Patrick Hill. The latter opened the day with victory in heat one but thereafter had to play second fiddle to his big rival, as Prosser took the top step in the remaining races.

Behind them, Jack Bligh claimed third in heat one, before Ben Cutler took over the role of chief pursuer for the remainder of the day.

Junior and Mini Max once

again ran together on-track, but there was no denying Rob Ellis who, after July's interruption, returned to winning ways in fine style with a clean sweep of all four outings in the Junior category. David Spiller and Tom Croydon gave chase, with the latter finishing as runner-up in the final, where Ceran Sokhi completed the podium.

Mini Max went the way of reigning Welsh champion Ethan Ling, who saw off the challenge of Riley Phillips in each race. Kieran Clarke and Jem Hempworth duelled over third spot, with the latter eventually taking the final step of the podium.

Junior TKM produced four different winners from as many races, with Ross Deal, Hugo Homes and Yousuf Ashraf taking a heat apiece before Alex Rees came through to again claim top spot in the final. Holmes and Ashraf completed the top three, less than a second behind the winner, with Deal eventually classified fourth.

Danny Griffiths continued his recent dominant form in Senior Honda, but was denied a third consecutive sweep of the day's action by being excluded from the opening heat. Undeterred, he bounced back to win the remaining races, including heading home Paul Saunders by some six seconds in the finale. Monty Gorringe claimed the final podium spot, denying Cristiano Nardone, who had celebrated victory in heat one earlier in the day.

In the absence of Tom Stride, July winner Dilip Singh proved the man to beat in Senior Rotax. The Honda class was no less fiercely contested, with Austin Maddocks and George Alp-Williams taking victory in the heats, before Jack Fordham stole the honours in the main event. Alp-Williams crossed the line in second place, with Maddocks third, just behind lone Comer runner Shayne Clarke.

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Junior and Mini Max once

taking heats one and three before repeating his success in the main event. Gareth Taylor proved to be Singh's closest opposition on this occasion, winning the remaining heat before chasing the victor home in the final. Sam Morgan chased Taylor to the line before rounding out the top three.

RESULTS:

CADET HONDA - 1. Jack Fordham (BRK), 2. George Alp-Williams (Project One), 3. Austin Maddocks (Project One). **CADET COMER** - 1. Shayne Clarke (Zip). **CADET IAME** - 1. Thomas Nippers (Zip), 2. Max Fenlon (RK/Birel), 3. Connor Kearney (Zip). **JUNIOR HONDA** - 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Patrick Hill (Wright), 3. Ben Cutler (7Kart).

JUNIOR TKM - 1. Alex Rees (Jade), 2. Hugo Holmes (Tonykart), 3. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade). **JUNIOR ROTAX** - 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. Tom Croydon (Gillard), 3. Ceran Sokhi (Kosmic). **MINI MAX** - 1. Ethan Ling (CRG), 2. Riley Phillips (Kosmic), 3. Jem Hempworth (CRG).

SENIOR HONDA - 1. Danny Griffiths (MS), 2. Paul Saunders (7Kart), 3. Monty Gorringe (7Kart). **SENIOR ROTAX** - 1. Dilip Singh (CRG), 2. Gareth Taylor (CRG), 3. Sam Morgan (CRG).

BEST NOVICE: Jenson Davis (Cadet Honda), **DRIVER OF THE DAY**: Thomas Nippers (Cadet IAME).

CRAIG LLEWELLYN



Llantwit Major Karate Club are celebrating after achieving silver Insport accreditation.

Llantwit Major Karate Club gains disability inclusion accolade

THE Llantwit Major Karate Club has become the first sport club in the Vale, as well as the first karate club in Wales, to achieve silver Insport accreditation level.

It is only one step away from achieving gold, which is the top award for inclusion in Wales.

Club sensei Simon Dodd commented: "As an organisation run by volunteers, it is great that we can still offer one of the highest levels of inclusion in Wales. Karate can have a huge impact on people's lives and I am proud we can serve the community in this way."

The Welsh Karate League has a disability category where people with a range of impairments can enter and take part in a competitive environment alongside the non-disabled participants.

The next league meeting is in Penarth Leisure Centre on Sunday, September 28 at 10am. Entry is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, added: "I think it's brilliant that so many clubs in the Vale of Glamorgan are aiming to be inclusive and provide activities for disabled people. The aim is to have a wide range of sport and

physical activity clubs in the Vale that will go through the Insport process.

"This will give disabled people more choice in what activities they wish to take part in and hopefully get them hooked on sport."

Insport is a Disability Sport Wales programme, designed to support governing bodies, local authorities and clubs to provide inclusive, quality sessions for disabled people within their communities, and at a level of their choice and abilities.

Numerous clubs throughout the Vale of Glamorgan have already completed the accreditation scheme up to ribbon and bronze level including Vale Reds Football Club, Barry Beavers Swimming Club, Boccia Rollers, and St Andrew's Major Special Olympics Golf Club. More clubs are being encouraged to sign up so more disabled people can take part in sport.

If you are interested in your physical activity or sport club becoming inclusive, contact Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer for the Vale Council on 01446 704728 or sjones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Athletic youth in whitewash

BRIDGEND Athletic youth played their second league fixture and their first at home when they welcomed Tonmawr youth to Newbridge fields on a bright September afternoon.

Tonmawr youth were newcomers to the Ospreys A League and so were an unknown quantity to Bridgend Athletic but came with a reputation as being one of the toughest youth teams in the region.

The Ath had made a good start to the season and this game was seen as an important one in terms of the potential success in the league for the rest of the campaign.

Both teams fielded sides made up of first, second and third year players and this led to a very even game in the opening encounters with both teams prepared to run the ball on every possible opportunity.

The Athletic backs were however looking the sharper in the first quarter and only excellent Tonmawr defence and last gasp mistakes by the Ath prevented a number of tries being scored.

The Bridgend Athletic forwards were also looking strong and dominated possession for long periods, keeping Tonmawr pinned in their own half.

The pressure began to tell and Tonmawr were forced to concede a number of penalties for infringements around the rucks and mauls and when one such infringement was called in a kickable position, Bridgend number 10 Josh Carey stepped up but pulled the kick narrowly wide.

A further penalty attempt again missed narrowly but the Bridgend team were now pressing hard and when the ball was won in midfield and spread between the half backs of Tom McCandle and Josh Carey and centres Sean Wilcox and Tom Jenkins, full back Craig Lewis came into the line to put winger Liam Phillips into space.

The wing ran some 25 metres down the touchline but was caught with 10 to go. Fortunately some excellent support play by back row forward Reuben Tooze allowed Phillips to offload for Tooze to go over in the corner for the Ath's first try.

The conversion went wide to take the score to 5-0.

There were no further scores in the half, but the second half began with Tonmawr going all out to turn things around and they ran the ball at Bridgend on numerous occasions and it was clear they had not come to lose this game.

Bridgend's defence was being tested but again and again they showed great resolve with forwards Eithan Davies, Luke Williams, Matthew Bennett and Reuben Tooze outstanding in the loose, and tight forwards Zach Evans, Cameron Thomas, Lloyd Rees, and Tom Seldon controlling the set pieces.

The Bridgend coaches began to make some personnel changes early on in the second period bringing on young scrum half Dan James for Tom McCandle and in the front row Hywel Cosby at hooker and prop Cian House.

In the backs wing Ben Jones was on for Liam Phillips and full back Jo Symons on for Craig Lewis who moved to centre. The exciting James made an

instant impact after good Bridgend forward pressure earned a scrum five metres out and when the half back picked up at back of the scrum he threw a brilliant dummy to dive over for an excellent try. Replacement wing Ben Jones slotted the conversion and Bridgend were 12-0 up.

Further replacements in the forwards saw back row player Jeavon Bell and prop Nathan Watts on for Bridgend to keep the momentum going, but again the gutsy Tonmawr team came at Bridgend at every opportunity.

Bridgend Athletic were too well organised however and would not concede a score and indeed they continued to dominate territory and possession, and with five minutes to go further pressure allowed the Bridgend backs to open up the Tonmawr defence and spread the ball to right wing Rhys Lloyd out wide.

The rapid winger needs no invitation to run and sprinted 30 metres to cross in the corner for the Athletic's third try. The conversion went narrowly wide but this was good enough to take the match to the end, the final score being 17-0.

Huge credit must go to the Tonmawr side for the massive determination they showed, but the Bridgend Athletic coaching staff of Tony Bennett, Gerwyn Wilcox, James Groom and Gavin Thomas were again delighted in the way their whole squad performed on the day.

This is another important win early in the league programme and is another great confidence boost as they continue the league season away this week at Waunarlwydd.

MP

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Golfers help raise money 'fore' charity!



A record number of 130 golfers took part in this year's Veterans Charity Day at St Athan Golf Club in aid of Age Concern Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan, an event that has become an annual event, with many coming from around south Wales.

The first golfers teed off at 7.30am playing a four ball better ball stableford competition in rather inclement weather, but later we were blessed with good dry weather for the rest of the days play.

The winners were as follows:

First Mr T Graham & Mr R Husband (St Athan) - 46 pts, second Mr A Williams & Mrs G Williams (St Athan) - 46 pts (CB), third Mr M Edwards (St Athan) - 43 pts (CB).

HP-M

Barry and District LDS Skittle League

First Division:

Robinson (27), Airways Angels (J Thomas 27); SV Gals (C Lewis, J Richards 28); Colecot Witchill Wanderers (P Schembri 34), Jolly LDS (K Taylor 31), Dollies (V Lauder 32); Barry Stars (C Lambeth 30); Red Admiral (J 25), Westenders (G Gee Jones, S Clements 25), SV LDS (L Givern Castaways (G Drew 28; 33), Hill Billies (D Space Finders (L Stewart 33); Lil Devils Hembury 33), Pila Palas (T Corrigan 27), Dolly Mixtures (E Bryan 23); (B Gough 33), Family Etcetera (M Grasby 26), Affair (C Grubb, J Persuaders (K Scott 33); Davies 30); Bakers Dz Merry Makers (Davies (M Lewis 27), Family 28), Friends and Neighbours (R Page 21), 28).

Fourth Division:

Odd Bods (A Bartolo 26), Strikers (J Mills 27), Rebels (J Farr 27); Witchill Widows (L Wyndham Witches (W Sullivan, L Spyrow 24); Williams 27), BFFs (R Luckies (E Walters 36), Britton 26); La-Belles (C Roller Coasters (M Knight 36), Fallen Merriott, M Burgess 33); Angels (C Stephens 32); Vixens (G Jones, M Challengers (M Griffiths Marks 29), Divas (L Hall 27), The Rails (S Crump 29); Castle Bandits (D Collard, E Evans, J Grant 25), SV Lights (D Ravers (J Gough, G Masterman, E Andrews 27), Liberals (S 27); Cad Con Fillies (M Williams 26); Park Boulter 24), Witchell Belles (M Whitehurst Webies (D Dangerfield 35), Optimists (J Holland 26); Breakaways (Vicky 31); Aristocats (M Martin, L Smith 31), Atkinson, T Weston 26), Rhoose Starlights (C Socialites (J Hawkins Daily 31).

Third Division: (Sarah Aston 23), Billy Ravers (A Bunters (G Loveless 24).

THE involvement of Rhoose Amateur Boxing Club in the local community has been praised by local MP Alun Cairns.

Ex-professional boxer 'Barry Bomber' Michael Smyth and Lee Barratt are the men behind the club and Mr Cairns was given an insight into training techniques and financial challenges they faced.

"Clubs like this are vital to our communities, but

they can often be confronted with substantial running costs and paperwork to operate," the MP said.

The Rhoose club is a terrific example of the community helping youngsters from across the Vale. I will work with the 'Barry Bomber' Michael Smyth to ensure any potential funding and support can be accessed," he promised.

Chess players in good form

AT the final summer congress, Barry Chess Club was again well represented, with three players in the open section and a further two players in the under 1,500. This was a five-round Swiss style congress.

Craig Woolcock, Lee Davis and Nigel Ralphs were among the 16 competitors in the Open section. The eventual winner was Peter Ehsander from the Cardiff Chess Club who finished with 4.5 points from his five games.

Craig Woolcock finished in second place, earning four wins after losing his first match against Shayanna Sivarajasingham.

Lee Davis and Nigel Ralphs finished in equal fourth place on 3.5 points. Lee lost to Tim Kett in the final round when a win would have given him a share of the title.

Nigel remained unbeaten throughout the tournament but was awarded two byes during the weekend so he only dropped half a point from his three completed matches.

In the under 1,500 section, two of our newer players were among the participants. Stephen Bonutto

and Jason Grice both had an identical score of 1.5 out of 5 and finished in equal ninth place. The key match here was in the final round when Stephen defeated Jason in the only all-Barry contest.

The main East Glamorgan League tournament has now started with wins for all four of our teams in the opening round.

The best result was seen in division one where the Camelots defeated a strong Cardiff Bishops side by a margin of 3.5 to 1.5. This seems even more impressive when the Bishops outrated us on every board.

The Bishops normally end the season in the top three so this augers well for the season. The perennial winners of the title, the Cardiff Castles, started badly, only managing a draw with Nelson.

The Bosons are in second place after the first round of games having defeated a weaker Aberdare side by 4-1.

However if we hope to challenge for the title this year we need to win these matches by the maximum margin possible, so we will feel aggrieved to have drawn

matches against lower ranked

players on boards 4 and 5.

The team to watch this year seems to be the North Cardiff Woodpushers who have seen their membership almost double with a number of new players and transfers from the Cardiff club.

In division three, we started well winning at Pentretyr by 3.5 to 1.5. We hope this team has now found its correct level and will not be fighting relegation again.

In rating terms we should have done even better as Martin Ricketts on board 5 will be disappointed not to have beaten Mike McLoughlin on board 5.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit:

PHIL JONES

FAMOUS RIDERS FROM THE VALE Neale Doughty

DAVID Neale throughout the race. A big jump at Becher's on the second circuit gained him a lot of ground and he landed in sixth place.

By the time the Valentine's obstacle had been jumped, *Haloo Dandy* and the favourite *Greasepaint* were clear of the other 21 horses who were to finish the race, then the largest number of finishers on record.

Another good jump at the penultimate fence gave *Haloo Dandy* the lead and he jumped the last fence two lengths clear of *Greasepaint* who, despite renewing his challenge, had to settle for the runners-up spot for the second successive year.

Doughty had a really remarkable Grand National record. Only once in 10 of his Grand National rides did he fail to complete the course. Before his success he had finished fifth, then fourth, then 12th, sixth, seventh, third and fifth.

In the void Grand National of 1993 he had finished sixth of the seven finishers on *On The Other Hand*, a horse he had high hopes of winning him his second National.

Neale, who rode his first winner at Perth in 1977, rode a lot of big race winners and these included *Must Be Magic*, *Poumement*, *Clever Folly*, *Haloo Noddy's Ryde*, *Lord Greystoke* and *Current Gold*.

Adapted from Brian Lee's Welsh Steeplechase Jockeys, Cwmnedd Press, Neath, 1993.

BRIAN LEE



Vale MP Alun Cairns pictured at Rhoose Amateur Boxing Club.

MP WADES IN TO HELP OUT LOCAL BOXING CLUB

THE involvement of Rhoose Amateur Boxing Club in the local community has been praised by local MP Alun Cairns.

Ex-professional boxer 'Barry Bomber' Michael Smyth and Lee Barratt are the men behind the club and Mr Cairns was given an insight into training techniques and financial challenges they faced.

"Clubs like this are vital to our communities, but

they can often be confronted with substantial running costs and paperwork to operate," the MP said.

The Rhoose club is a terrific example of the community helping youngsters from across the Vale. I will work with the 'Barry Bomber' Michael Smyth to ensure any potential funding and support can be accessed," he promised.

Chess players in good form

AT the final summer congress, Barry Chess Club was again well represented, with three players in the open section and a further two players in the under 1,500. This was a five-round Swiss style congress.

Craig Woolcock, Lee Davis and Nigel Ralphs were among the 16 competitors in the Open section.

The eventual winner was Peter Ehsander from the Cardiff Chess Club who finished with 4.5 points from his five games.

Craig Woolcock finished in second place, earning four wins after losing his first match against Shayanna Sivarajasingham.

Lee Davis and Nigel Ralphs finished in equal fourth place on 3.5 points. Lee lost to Tim Kett in the final round when a win would have given him a share of the title.

Nigel remained unbeaten throughout the tournament but was awarded two byes during the weekend so he only dropped half a point from his three completed matches.

In the under 1,500 section, two of our newer players were among the participants. Stephen Bonutto

and Jason Grice both had an identical score of 1.5 out of 5 and finished in equal ninth place. The key match here was in the final round when Stephen defeated Jason in the only all-Barry contest.

The main East Glamorgan League tournament has now started with wins for all four of our teams in the opening round.

The best result was seen in division one where the Camelots defeated a strong Cardiff Bishops side by a margin of 3.5 to 1.5. This seems even more impressive when the Bishops outrated us on every board.

In rating terms we should have done even better as Martin Ricketts on board 5 will be disappointed not to have beaten Mike McLoughlin on board 5.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards;

whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit:

PHIL JONES



Glamorgan GEM Sport

YOUR DEFINITIVE SPORTS ROUND-UP



Send your match reports, news and other items of interest to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Students teach Athletic a lesson



Sports just fall short

BRIDGEND Sports under-9s travelled to a sun-drenched Maesteg Celtic rugby ground for the 14th Clive Evans memorial mini rugby tournament on Sunday.

The Sports were placed in a pool with Bryncethin, Pencoed and Tondu. In their first game the Sports defeated Pencoed in a close, open game with the Sports scoring tries through debutant Alex Stimpson, Dylan Morgan, Mackenzie Dent, Thomas Chick and two from Rhys Wilson.

Pencoed were determined to make the game difficult for the Sports and ran in five tries, leaving the Sports holding on for a 6-5 victory.

The Sports then faced a strong Tondu side. Tondu scored a try from the off, but the Sports responded with a try from Ben King who charged his way through three players to score.

The sides traded tries, Dylan Morgan scoring for the Sports. With the sides tied running into the last couple of minutes, a combination of spilled ball, some missed tackles and a penalty allowed Tondu the opportunities they needed to take control of the game. Two Tondu tries followed to make the final score 4-2 to

LEFT: Jonathan Stokes charges through the Tondu defence for Bridgend Athletic seconds – they went on to win with ease, 38-7.

PICTURE BY GLENNSPORTS

C A R D I F F M e t r o p o l i t a n , playing down the slope, started at a fast and furious pace against a lethargic looking opening from Bridgend Athletic.

They failed to adjust to the pace of the game and after 15 minutes found themselves 17-0 down.

The first try after five minutes came when full back Lewis Morgan entered the line and ran outside the Athletic centres. The second try also came with a midfield break, this time by centre Chay Smith. Outside half Owen Thomas converted both tries and then added a penalty.

With the prospects of a cricket score at last the Athletic got their act together. Outside half Josh White then kicked a 30 metre penalty to put the Athletic on the scoreboard.

A good run by wing Rhys Ward Jones took the Athletic into the students' 22. They had been successful against Glynneath with rolling mauls and tried the tactic again. The students came in at the side and pulled down the maul, resulting in a yellow card for No 6 John Dawe.

From the resultant penalty the Athletic again used the same tactic. Once again the students collapsed the maul. Against Glynneath the referee awarded a penalty try for the same offence.

Tries followed for Dylan Morgan, and a final try from Alex Stimpson resulted in a 3-1 victory for Bridgend Sports.

The Sports' path to the final was, however, thwarted by a tough Tondu side who ran out well deserved pool winners after defeating the Sports (4-2), Pencoed (4-2) and Bryncethin (3-2).

The Sports youngsters will have learned the importance of teamwork in both defence and attack.

The team's next game is at home to Tonymrefail; training is every Wednesday at 6pm on the Bandstand Field, new players are always very welcome.

SP

try line and flanker Dan Apsee peeled away to dive over wide out.

White added the conversion to reduce the deficit to 20-10. The Athletic had most of the second half but on a number of occasions were penalised inside the Metropolitan 22.

The game had been niggly with two full-on brawls taking place, with the referee, in this writer's opinion, failing to take appropriate action, and Thomas kicked another penalty to give the students their first victory of the campaign.

Athletic No 8 Dan Apsee was the Athletic man of the match with flankers' captain Sean Williams and Matthew Hillman the pick of the pack. Young scrum half Jake Williams and centre Chris Price were the pick of the backs.

The Athletic entertain high-scoring Swansea at Newbridge Fields this Saturday. The backs need to take a leaf out of the Metropolitan backline who consistently attacked the gain line at speed giving their pack chance to clean out quickly and set up the next phase of play. They will also need to start on the front foot or they will again be in a game of catch up.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2ND XV 38 TONDU 2ND XV 7

The Athletic 2nd XV made it three wins from three games, crossing for six tries in claiming the scalp of derby rivals Tondu with a 38-7 victory.

The win was based on an excellent forward display with man of the match lock Jonathan Stoker leading the way, while forwards Nathan Holman and Iestyn Merryman playing out of position in the backs were the pick of the Athletic backline.

Wing Andrew Tyler crossed for an excellent individual try, while other try scorers were prop Wayne Fooks, lock Jonathon Stoker, scrum half Nathan Holman, wing Shaun Johnson and a penalty try; Nick Jones converted four of the tries.

AB

PENCOED GET THE WIN AGAINST MAESTEG

WITH both Maesteg and Pencoed having won their opening Division 2 West Central matches, this game was to provide a little more insight to the league aspirations of the respective participants.

Home full back Ed Howley was the first to trouble the scoreboard operator with a penalty goal in the opening minutes.

Pencoed soon increased their lead with skipper Grant Epton picking a good angle to score halfway out, Howley adding the extras.

Further penalty goal from Howley gave the 'Old Parish' a 13 point lead on 20 minutes. The Pencoed reply was immediate, centre Lloyd Ryland running at the heart of the home defence deep in their 22 and quick ruck ball saw flanker Rhys Watkins cross wide out. Howley added another penalty and Maesteg led 16-5 on 32 minutes.

Pencoed then began to up their game and a dominant scrummage gave them the platform for their second try, the resultant penalty putting them into the home 22 where a 20 metre lineout catch and drive saw alert scrum half Kyle Barrett get the touchdown, Adam Williams added the conversion and Maesteg led 16-12 at the interval.

Hesitancy at the restart from Pencoed gave Howley the opportunity to step up and goal his fourth penalty, and only desperate cover defence from wing Glen Hiscocks stopped the home side from increasing their lead.

From this point in the match it became all Pencoed, with the pack raising their game, and driving play from Pencoed man of the match Ieuan Watkins and Rhys Pope gave them prime position, where once again a lineout catch and drive got its reward, player coach Aaron Halse the try scorer; Williams added the conversion to level matters at 19-19.

Williams added two further penalty goals which sandwiched a Tom Cross try scoring effort being ruled out, a TMO needed really for this one!

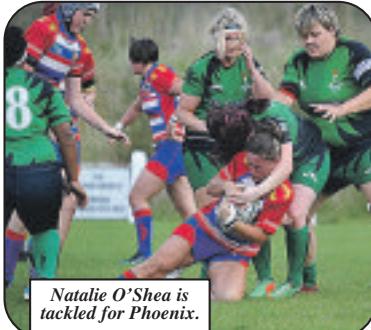
With the Pencoed scrummage now dominant Williams gave his side further breathing space with another couple of penalty goals, and Pencoed led 19-31 going into the final minutes of the match.

Pencoed were not finished, however, and a defensive turnover at a maul on their own line saw Pencoed sweep down field, and centre Ryland straightened on to a short pass from the returning Marc Davies to weave his way over from 22 metres for the bonus point try, much to the delight of the considerable Pencoed support, Williams slotting over the conversion for a thoroughly deserved 19-38 victory.

On Saturday Pencoed entertain Llantwit Fadre in the first round of the WRU Swalec Plate at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.

PENCOED 2ND XV 41 NANTYFFYLLON 2ND XV 19

This was a fine win in the Mid Glamorgan



Natalie O'Shea is tackled for Phoenix.



ABOVE: Ieuan Watkins draws the attention of Maesteg's defence, while BELOW: Adam Williams sizes up a kick at goal.

PICTURES BY JULIE HANOCOK



League Division 1 for a Pencoed 2nd XV which included a number of debutants.

Scott Griffiths got a brace of tries on his debut, further tries coming from Dai Pearson, Aaron Songhurst, Scott Narbeth, Luke Jones and Jamie Pensom, who also added three conversions.

With no league commitment on Saturday the team will probably seek a friendly match, ideally against a local club.

BRIDGEND SPORTS YOUTH 7 PENCOED YOUTH 15

In this fairly evenly matched Ospreys League encounter Pencoed came through with tries from Jacob David, Chris Cooper and Kyle Baker.

Captain Jac Picton led by example with a fine performance, with Jordan Fox shining in defence. On Saturday Pencoed youth entertain Nantyffyllon in another Ospreys League match.

SEVEN SISTERS LADIES 24 PENCOED PHOENIX 22

Pencoed Phoenix came agonisingly close in only their second match in the WRU National Premiership to getting their first win at this level.

Conceding early tries along with an interception try, Phoenix trailed 24-5 at the break with only a Natalie O'Shea try to show for their efforts.

The second half was a different story, however, with the superior fitness of the Phoenix side very apparent.

Galvanised by halftime replacements Amy Williams at outside half, and Becca Pope at prop forward Phoenix dominated the second half, and tries came from Nerys Lloyd, Leanne Burnell and Williams with a superb solo effort from 40 metres, regathering her own kick ahead to score under the posts.

Lauren Aitken added two conversions before time ran out on the Phoenix ascendancy. On Sunday Pencoed Phoenix host Skewen in the National Premiership, 2.30pm kick off. Pencoed under-14s ran out 26-10 winners against a formidable Cowbridge under-14s side.

TR

Players wanted

BRIDGEND Town junior football team require more youth players to join their squad.

We have enough players to form a team and currently play in the South Wales youth league, but to develop further we need additional players to join our small squad.

If you are aged 16 or 17 and would like to play in the youth football league, contact 07927674808 or come and join us on a Wednesday at 6pm at the Newbridge Fields in Bridgend.

AM